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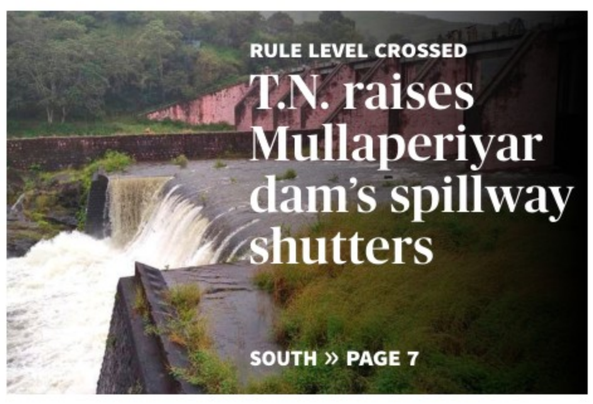
MANIPUR CONFLICT

Meitei groups to meet Central officials today

NEWS » PAGE 10



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The manufacturer is struggling amid crashes and competition

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Djokovic seeks record 25th Grand Slam title

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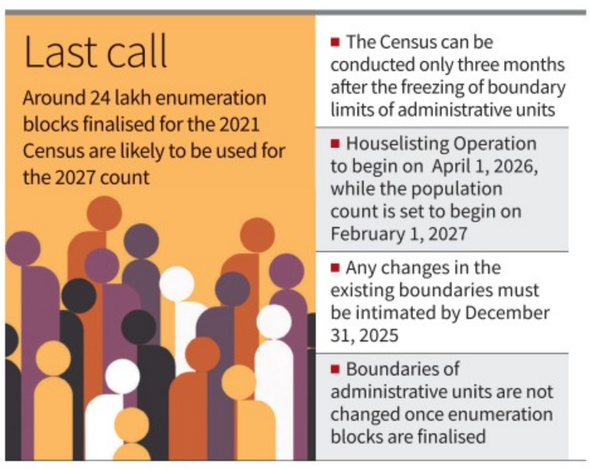
Ahead of Census, States asked to lock changes in boundaries before Dec. 31

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI



The Registrar-General of India (RGI) has informed the States that the first phase of the Population Census 2027 – House Listing and Housing Schedule (HLO) – will tentatively begin on April 1, 2026 and preparations have to be made accordingly.

The RGI has also informed the States that the administrative boundaries will be frozen by December 31 and if any changes are to be made to the limits of police stations, tehsils, and districts, it should be done before the said date.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the dates and questions to be asked in the first phase will be notified in the Gazette later. Nearly 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors, mainly officials working with the State governments, and 1.3 lakh Census functionaries are expected to be deployed for the exercise, which will be done digitally for the first time.

Around 24 lakh enumeration blocks (EB) finalised for the 2021 Census are likely to be used for the 2027 count.

Each EB usually comprises 150-180 houses or 650-800 people. The exercise covers all States phasewise and usually follows the April-September period, when the enumerator assigns a distinct number to each house, building or public space.

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Maharashtra scraps new three-language policy

Panel formed to decide future of the policy for primary classes will submit its report in 3 months; Opposition, experts say decision a victory for Marathi people, express doubts about panel's role

Vinaya Vilas Deshpande
MUMBAI

Word troubles: Shiv Sena (UBT) workers protest against the proposed three-language policy in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

Maharashtra scrapped the introduction of the three-language policy for Classes 1 to 5 in State government schools on Sunday, after two months of sustained opposition by academics, activists, and political parties, including the Nationalist Congress Party, which is part of the ruling coalition in the State.

To decide the future of the policy, the government set up an expert committee to be headed by economist, educationist, and former Rajya Sabha member Narendra Jadhav. "The committee will look into the three-language policy, from which grade it should be implemented. It will study the recommendations of the Mashelkar Committee report. It will also hear those who have a different opinion. The government will accept the Narendra Jadhav committee report," Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis told presspersons in Mumbai.

Two government orders introducing the policy for primary education, issued on April 16 and June 17, have been cancelled.

"The government has put the three-language formula on hold at present. The committee has sought three months," a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

This policy will impact nearly 80 lakh primary students in the State Board's Marathi and English medium schools. The three-language formula is currently implemented in secondary classes.

Opposition parties, which had burnt copies of the government orders across the State just hours earlier on Sunday, cautiously welcomed the government's decision, but were sceptical about the panel's role.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray and his cousin Raj Thackeray of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena declared it the victory of the unity of the Marathi people.

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NEARBY

Third rail testing for Pink Line begins

BENGALURU
The Pink Line of Namma Metro has made an important progress with BMRCL starting 'third rail' testing, a crucial electrification procedure on the elevated stretch between Jayadeva and Tavarekere stations. » PAGE 3

Woman's body found dumped in garbage lorry

BENGALURU
The body of a woman, aged around 30, was found packed in a sack and dumped in a parked garbage lorry by the roadside in Chennammanakere Achukattu. » PAGE 2

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGES 4 & 5

Surjewala to arrive today as State Congress leaders continue to air their views in public

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, who is in charge of Karnataka, will meet legislators individually to elicit their views on the functioning of the government.

The Congress seems to be in a damage-control mode over its disgruntled legislators airing their opinions in public, as All-India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, who is in charge of Karnataka, arrives in Bengaluru on Monday to meet the legislators individually to elicit their views on the functioning of the government.

The Congress government continues to be embarrassed over the sticky issue of power sharing, with Ramanagara legislator H.A. Iqbal Hussian on Sunday indicating that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar could become the Chief Minister in the "next two to three months", even as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's aide and Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa insisted that there is no confusion over the Chief Minister's post.

Party sources said Mr. Surjewala would be in Bengaluru for two days and is scheduled to meet with some legislators to elicit their opinions on the functioning of the government and discuss the problem of the release of funds to constituencies.

"Some legislators have received a call from Mr. Surjewala's office directly, asking them to meet him, while others have evinced interest in meeting him," party sources said.

Coming amid speculation over a possible Cabinet reshuffle and a leadership change, Mr. Surjewala's visit is being seen in the light of legislators' disgruntlement over allocation of funds to the constituencies and also allegations of corruption in allocation of houses under the Housing Department – both of which have provided the Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) a handle to latch on to corner the Congress.

The Deputy Chairman of the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission and Aland legislator B.R. Patil and Kagwad legislator Bharamagouda (Raju) Kage have spoken in public, embarrassing the government. Sagar legislator Belur Gopalkrishna had publicly demanded the resignation of Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan over the alleged scam.

Sources said Mr. Surjewala is likely to meet the disgruntled legislators individually and get their feedback. It is also learnt that he would be meeting several legislators from the Old Mysore region to elicit their opinion on the government. Party sources said before leaving for Delhi, Mr. Surjewala would meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 6

Banu Mushtaq to chair sahitya sammelana

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Banu Mushtaq

Banu Mushtaq, Kannada writer and International Booker Prize winner, has been unanimously chosen as president of the 88th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana scheduled to be held in Ballari in December.

The decision was announced by Kannada Sahitya Parishat president Mahesh Joshi at a press meet in Ballari on Sunday.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 3

SIT expanded amid protests over gang rape case in Kolkata

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police have increased the number of officers in the special investigation team constituted to probe the alleged gang rape of a law college student to nine. Protests were held on Sunday outside South Calcutta Law College, where the alleged crime took place on June 25, and the Kasba police station, where the FIR has been registered.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 11

Three dead, over 50 injured in morning stampede during Rath Yatra in Puri

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

CM announces ₹25 lakh aid for the kin of each victim

Three devotees, two of them women, were killed, and at least 50 injured in a stampede near the chariots carrying deities during the Rath Yatra in Puri of Odisha in the early hours of Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Basanti Sahu of Bolagarh, and Premakant Mohanty and Pravati Das of Balipatna.

The incident took place near the Gundicha temple, as thousands of devotees tried to press closer to the chariots for a glimpse of Lord Jagannath and his siblings, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, during the annual event.

The stampede was triggered when devotees surged forward as the darshan continued after temporarily pausing for a ritual. In recent years, an increasing number of devotees have been arriving at night for the event to avoid the massive daytime crowds.

Apologising to devotees for the incident, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced that ₹25 lakh would be paid to the kin of each of the deceased. He also ordered a high-level administrative inquiry into the tragedy, to be headed by the State's Development Commissioner. Citing dereliction of duty, the government transferred District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain and Superintendent of Police Vinit Agrawal out of Puri district, while two senior police officers were placed under suspension. Any form of negligence related to the incident will not be tolerated, the Chief Minister said, adding that exemplary action will be taken.

Relatives of the victims and several devotees alleged a complete absence of police personnel during the night hours, which they said contributed to the tragedy. They alleged that BJP Ministers were misusing their power to facilitate the entry of their friends and supporters to the inner cordon around the chariots, causing further chaos.

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The Edgbaston barrier that looms large for Gill & Co.

The weight of depressing history confronts India as it seeks to square the series in the second Test; it is crucial for the side to put the disappointment of Leeds behind and regroup quickly; the two previous games have seen the visiting team suffer losses

R. Kaushik
BIRMINGHAM

"It's disappointing that the final of a 50-over tournament had to be decided by a Twenty20 game."

One would think this would be the lament of the losing captain, but Mahendra Singh Dhoni is anything but conventional. Not long after his side got out of jail, defeating England by five runs in the final of the Champions Trophy in June 2013, the Indian captain made his displeasure obvious even though he had himself just completed a rare treble of ICC trophies, adding the Champions Trophy to prior triumphs at the T20 World Cup (2007) and the 50-over World Cup (2011).

The scene of India's first outright Champions Trophy success was Birmingham's Edgbaston, draped in a sea of blue that would have convinced the uninitiated that it was India who were the home side.

India had previously shared the Champions Trophy title with Sri Lanka, in Colombo in 2002, when the final ended indecisively on both the original day and the reserve day even though close to 110 overs were bowled on the two days combined. There was, therefore, greater satisfaction at having won the title on their own steam, in a game England lorded for the most part until Ishant Sharma broke the final open with the wickets of Eoin Morgan and Ravi Bopara in successive deliveries in the 18th over with the hosts well on course for a comfortable victory.

Until this March, when Rohit Sharma's men scythed through the draw in Dubai to wrap their hands around the silverware, June 2013 remained India's standout Champions Trophy memory. Edgbaston, one would therefore presume, ought to bring back happy memories - even though only Ravindra Jadeja from this 18-member touring squad figured in that tournament - but that solitary glittering gem apart, this has been a venue of heartbreak and bitter disappointment, of crushing defeats and underwhelming outputs, in the five-day format.

Starting July 1967, India have lost seven of eight Tests in the United Kingdom's second largest city, among them three shattering defeats by an innings. The only time they didn't end up on the wrong side of the result was in 1986, under Kapil Dev. India had already secured an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-Test series following victories at Lord's and Leeds when the teams travelled to Edgbaston with the visitors eyeing a rare clean sweep. It was their first series triumph in England since 1971 when Ajit Wadekar's band of brothers created history and India were primed to inflict further embarrassment on the hosts after the first innings ended with the scores level (390 apiece).

Chetan Sharma, whose five-for had been instrumental alongside Dilip Vengsarkar's century in securing the first Test at Lord's, gave India hope with six for 58 that restricted England to 235 early on the fifth day.

India had more than 80 overs to chase down 236 and were reasonably placed at 101 for one - Sunil Gavaskar and Mohinder Amarnath were in the middle with a host of batting riches (Vengsarkar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Ravi Shastri and the mercurial skipper himself) to follow - when a mid-innings collapse of four for four, orchestrated by left-arm spinner Phil Edmonds, threw a spanner in the works. Azhar and Kiran More, the feisty wicketkeeper, held on for more than two hours while adding 69 to secure an honourable draw. India weren't complaining, they had won the series 2-0; Mike Gatting's side was relieved that it didn't go down in the record books as the first English outfit to be subjected to a 3-0 battering at home by the Indians.

Tough loss

That wasn't the only time India came close to breaking their Edgbaston duck. In August 2018, in the first Test of a five-match series, India ran England close and had their moments after being set a target of 194, but in those days, chasing - especially overseas - didn't come easily to Virat Kohli's side. Through the skipper's magnificent 149, India had kept England's first-innings lead down to only 13, after which Ishant Sharma, R. Ashwin and Umesh Yadav got down to work, leaving Joe Root's men gasping at 87 for seven.

Not for the first time, they were baulked by the lower-order, shored up this time by the free-scoring Sam Curran. The left-hander smashed nine fours and two sixes on his way to a 65-ball 63, striking up crucial alliances with Adil Rashid (48 for the eighth) and Stuart Broad (41 for the ninth) to give himself and the rest of the bowling group something to work with. England were bowled out for 180 on the third day. Time was never a factor; it was about the Indian top-order holding its nerve against a quality attack helmed by James Anderson and Broad, backed up by Ben Stokes.

Broad struck the early blows and Anderson scuppered the middle-order but like in the first innings, Kohli again held firm, totally untroubled and batting with supreme control while the others around him struggled a fair bit. For more than three hours, he defied England with obdurate defence occasionally interspersed with flowing cover-drives until his first mistake proved his last. Plonking his left foot across his body and trying to work Stokes to leg, Kohli made no contact with the full ball and was trapped plumb in front.

Aleem Dar's finger shot up in a trice and even while opting for the review, Kohli knew that he was gone. Replays confirmed that the ball would have clattered into the leg-stump.

The skipper had barely taken off his pads when Mohammed Shami followed him back to the hut, three deliveries later, with 53 still required for victory. Fittingly, it was Stokes who formalised the victory, having Hardik Pandya caught at first slip to send India packing for 162. The talismanic all-rounder finished with four for 40 and India went down by 31 runs, knowing that a long, hard summer loomed. As it transpired, England surged to a 4-1 victory despite Kohli's batting heroics which netted him 593 runs in 10 innings, a vast improvement from four years previously when he had mustered just 134 runs at an unflattering average of 13.40.

More heartbreak was in store four years later, in the final Test of a series that began in 2021. Originally, the last of the five Tests was slated for Manchester - India held a 2-1 lead at that point - when the match was postponed owing to a Covid outbreak in the Indian camp that sparked the fear of escalation. When India came 12 months later, the game was shifted to Edgbaston. Kohli, who was the captain for the first four Tests, had resigned and Rohit was the new skipper but he missed the match after testing positive for Covid and Jasprit Bumrah stood in. India led by 132 runs in the first innings and posted 245 in the second, asking England to score 378 to level the series.

By this time, Stokes had been named the England captain, forming an exciting leadership group alongside head coach Brendon McCullum which redefined the team's approach to Test cricket. Their brand of attacking batsmanship came to be known as Bazball; the defensive pottering of the past had given way to greater freedom in shot-making and a singular absence of the fear of failure. After a 107-run opening stand between Alex Lees and Zak Crawley, England lost three wickets for two runs with Bumrah striking telling blows when Jonny Bairstow joined Root. For the next four hours, the two Yorkshiremen destroyed India's bowling which lapsed into a steady diet of the short stuff even though there was no indication that that ploy would yield dividends.

A bouquet of boundaries (34 fours, two sixes) marked the unseparated 269-run fourth-wicket partnership. England scored at 4.93 runs an over in the fourth innings to make 378 appear miniscule, even more dominant than at Headingley last week when they again chased down a daunting 371 with relative comfort.

It's this weight of depressing history that confronts India as they seek to square the series in the second Test beginning on Wednesday. The signs aren't promising. Despite five centuries and despite their (and the world's) best bowler taking five wickets in the first innings, India were well beaten in Leeds. It is more than likely that Bumrah won't play at Edgbaston, which will make India's task even more difficult. Even if Bumrah should play, England will feel they have a slight psychological edge because they kept him wicketless during their successful run-chase, all of which suggest that a gargantuan task lies ahead of Shubman Gill and Gautam Gambhir.

Onerous task

If India surrender again in Birmingham, they will practically play themselves into a point of no return. Not often do teams come back from 0-2 down to win a series, especially overseas; India never have, so it is crucial that they put the disappointment of Leeds behind them and regroup quickly and effectively to ensure that they stay in touch with their opponents.

Birmingham does have the reputation of being a tall-scoring venue, which will necessitate India's top order to reprise its heroics of Headingley, but which will also demand that the lower order weigh in with a few runs of their own. In the two innings combined in the first Test, India lost 13 for 72 whereas England's last five wickets contributed 189 in the first innings. These are decisive numbers.

India may not boast the same quality in the last four as England, but they can at least invoke the commitment and application so sorely missing last week - and hold all the catches that come their way. But more than all this, they have to find ways and means to pick up 20 English wickets, a tall order with or without Bumrah, as the first Test reiterated.

THE GIST

- Starting July 1967, India has lost seven of eight Tests in the United Kingdom's second largest city, among them three shattering defeats by an innings
- In August 2018, in the first Test of a five-match series, India ran England close and had its moments after being set a target of 194
- Birmingham does have the reputation of being a tall-scoring venue, which will necessitate India's top-order to reprise its heroics of Headingley

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NEW DELHI | CHENNAI

PSI injured in freak accident dies; lorry driver still at large

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A police sub-inspector (PSI) attached to Talaghattapura station, who was injured after a lorry ran over him while he was standing next to his patrolling car at Chandapura on June 24, succumbed to his injuries on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Mahboob Guddalli, 40.

Mehboob Guddalli

While two constables who accompanied him had a narrow escape, two drug peddlers the team had detained escaped. The lorry driver also sped away from the scene. Based on a complaint filed by Tulasidas, head constable and eyewitness to the incident, the Surya Nagar police have registered a case against the lorry driver and the two accused, identified as Syed Waseem and Ameer.

According to the complainant, the incident occurred when the police, based on a tip-off, caught 19-year-old Faraz Syed Aslam red handed while peddling drugs. Faraz reportedly told the police that he used to source drugs from Syed Waseem, Syed Azhar, and Ameer. Alerted by his team, PSI Mahboob Guddalli led a team, raided a place in Tilak Nagar, and caught the trio in a car.

The police handcuffed the accused and sent Syed Azhar and Faraz Syed Aslam to the station for further investigation, while Mahboob and two constables Sanna Jadeyappa and Tulasidas along with Syed Waseem and Ameer left in the police car towards Attibele to track down other members of the network.

On the way, a part of the wheel got detached and Sana Jadeyappa who was driving stopped next to the road median and went to check the detached part. Mahboob Guddalli got down from the car, while Tulasidas was in the backseat with the two suspects. While Mahboob was on his phone standing behind the car, the lorry crashed into the car.

Due to the impact, the car moved a few metres away and a shocked Tulasidas jumped out to check. Sensing trouble, the lorry sped away, while Syed Waseem and Ameer taking advantage of the situation fled. The two constables immediately rushed a severely injured Mahboob to a private hospital, where he was being treated in the intensive care unit. He succumbed to his injuries on Saturday.

Four days after the accident, the police are yet to track down the lorry driver and the two drug peddlers who fled.

Woman's body found in garbage lorry; husband key suspect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a case that has shocked civic workers and the police alike, the body of a woman, aged around 30, was found packed in a sack and dumped in a parked garbage lorry by the roadside in Chennammanakere Achukattu in the wee hours of Sunday.

"The incident came to light when the lorry driver and some civic workers discovered the body in the lorry and alerted us. The deceased's age is between 25 and 30. Her neck and legs were tied in the sack. We have taken up a murder case," C. Vamsi Krishna, Joint Commissioner of Police (West), Bengaluru city police said. Further investigation has revealed the identity of the victim as Pushpa alias Asha, a resident of Hulimavu and working in a private firm as a contract employee.

The lorry in which the body was found. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'CCTV camera footage shows that someone came in an autorickshaw and dumped a sack in the parked lorry'

A probe revealed that Pushpa had an inter-faith marriage two years ago and the couple had an ongoing marital dispute. With her husband missing, police now suspect that he is the assailant.

Footage from CCTV camera nearby show that someone came in an autorickshaw and dumped a sack in the parked garbage lorry. The police are now on the lookout for the missing husband, sources said.

"We have definite leads and the case will be cracked soon," Lokesh B. Jagalasar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South Division), said.

Three held on charge of murder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Amruthahalli police have held three youths, including a juvenile, for bludgeoning a 35-year-old man to death over a trivial row on June 23.

The police had initially filed an unnatural death report after discovering the body of Anjinappa at an isolated place in Manyata Tech Park in Akashavani Nagar, suspecting that Anjinappa, an alcoholic, might have fallen down in inebriated state and died. However the autopsy report revealed the cause of death as a fatal blow to the head indicating that he was killed.

Probe launched
Following this, the police launched a probe and zeroed in on Premkumar, 18, and his associates Darshan Nanjunda, 20, and a juvenile.

The incident
While he was shepherding at Akashavani Layout three months ago, Anjinappa assaulted Premkumar for trying to steal the sheep. Enraged Premkumar confronted Anjinappa on June 23 night, assaulted him with a club and coconut husk found near-by, resulting in his death.

Three held for killing lecturer of private college, dumping body in well

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police recovered the victim's body from a well at Kempadevanahalli with his hands and legs tied and the mouth gagged

The Chintamani Rural police on Sunday cracked the murder case of a lecturer at a private college and arrested two brothers and their friend for killing him and dumping the body in a well, tied with a boulder. The victim was murdered after he started demanding the money they owed him.

Superintendent of Police, Chickballapur, Kushal Chowksey, said that the deceased Ramanji Shivappa, 31, a resident of Rampura village in Chintamani, left home to go to London for work on June 18 and went missing.

He neither reached London nor returned home. Days later, the police recovered his body from a well in Kempadevanahalli with his hands and legs tied, and mouth gagged.

His brother Vishwanatha identified him and pointed fingers at a set of suspects.

According to him, Ramanji was an MSc Agriculture Science graduate and was teaching at a private college in Yelahanka. Ramanji quit the job after the prime accused identified as Sudhakar, 26, an employee with a private finance company, had taken around ₹15 lakh from Ramanji assuring him of securing a high paying job in London.

The accused reportedly spent the money on his vices and started dodging Ramanji, who was desperate to go abroad and started demanding Sudhakar for the visa and ticket.

Unable to bear this, Sudhakar decided to kill Ramanji and roped in his younger brother Manoj, 23, who was also working at the same company and their friend Manjunatha, 27, who was working as labourer at a vegetable market.

As per the plan, they allegedly called Ramanji to pack his bag to go to London and offered to drop him to the airport.

Ramanji packed his luggage and left with the accused after informing his brother and elder sister.

The accused allegedly took him to an isolated place in Kempadevanahalli and strangled him to death and dumped his body in a well.

The accused even set fire to the luggage and returned home to make it look like that they had dropped Ramanji at the airport.

The trio have been booked for murder and destroying evidence, and taken into custody for further investigation, Mr. Chowksey said.

Press Day celebration tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Media Academy, the Department of Information and Public Relations, and the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association will jointly celebrate the Press Day on Tuesday at the Sulochana Auditorium, Vartha Soudha, on Infantry Road.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the programme, while Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will attend as the Guest of Honour and will release the Annual Report of the Karnataka Media Academy.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUDICIAL SMALL CAUSE COURT, AT BENGALURU
M.V.C No. 508/2024

BETWEEN: MR. PRASHANTH DIXIT S/o. Shivananda Dixit Aged about- 38 years, Residing at Villa 103, Honeypool Villas, Kadugodi, Seegehalli, Kannamangala, Bangalore 560 067
AND ANOTHER ...PETITIONERS

AND:

MR. RAMESH R V S/o Venkatesh R Aged about 58 years, Residing at No.12, 1st Floor, 1st Main, Basaveshwara Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040
AND OTHERS ...RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE TO RESPONDENT NOS.1 & 3

RESPONDENT NO.1:
MR. RAMESH R V S/o Venkatesh R Aged about 58 years, Residing at No.12, 1st Floor, 1st Main, Basaveshwara Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040

RESPONDENT NO.3:
MR. PUTTASWAMY S/o Javaraiah Aged about 58 years Residing at No. 28, 3rd Cross, Byadarahalli, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560091.

The instant Petition has filed by the Petitioner No.1 regarding the death of his wife @Smt. Poornima Subray Hegde on 18/07/2023. The Deceased had dropped the Petitioner No.1 to Kadugodi Metro Station and thereafter, the Deceased was returning to her house. The Deceased was wearing helmet and travelling by a Honda Activa Scooter bearing registration No. KA 01 HN 2440 from Hope farm to Kadugodi. At around 11.00 am to 11.15 am, when the Deceased was travelling to her house on Kadugodi Railway Bridge, the deceased was hit by an Ashok Leyland Lorry bearing No. KA-01-AA-3126 driven by the Respondent No.3. The Respondent No.1 is the actual owner of the Ashok Leyland Lorry bearing No. KA-01-AA-3126.

The notice on the instant Petition is issued to the aforementioned Respondents No.1 & 3 to the last known address i.e., at the address mentioned above. The service of the Court notice has not been possible and has returned unserved. The Court proceedings may take its own course, treating the service of Notice to the Respondents as complied through this paper publication.

You are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader duly instructed on the 5th day of August, 2025 at 11 A.M before the Hon'ble VI Additional Judge Court of Small causes and ACJM, at Bengaluru SCCH2. Failing which, the case will be determined as per Law placing you ex parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 25th day of June, 2025

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Asst. Registrar,
Court of Small causes and ACJM, Bangalore

Advocate for Petitioner
Pragati Law Chambers
#5A, Bharat Apartments, 44/1 Fairfield Layout, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560001.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	WWM STP CV	BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP) CV/PB/134/2025-26 Dt:16.06.2025-(3rd Call) (Reserved for SC Category)	₹ 4,20,517/- / ₹ 5,256/-	07.07.2025 upto 4:00 pm	08.07.2025 after 4:10 pm
2.		BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP) CV/PB/100/2025-26 Dt:03.06.2025	₹ 82,29,370/- / ₹ 1,64,590/-		

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (WWM-STP)CV

DIPR/SI/1501/2025-26

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम — A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
BENGALURU

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION)
UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)** through the website **https://baanknet.com/**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD A/c no. 4) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1) SHRI SANKAR G S/O C GANESAN NO. 201 rr enclave, kachnanayakanahalli police layout, jigani hennagara post,bengaluru rural 2) Also Residing At: SHRI SANKAR G NO. 22, G FLOOR, ramaiah street, near om shakthi temple vannarpet, viveknagar post,bengaluru- 560047 2) Canara Bank - Gandhinagar Branch Mob. No. 7080216393	1) Rs. 30,27,328.88 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 15.07.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2)15.07.2025 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 1,00,000/-	1. 16.07.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 14.07.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Residential Property bearing no 4, Khata No 526/117-118-199-25/2B/4, then Khata No 526/117, 118, 119/4 of the Bangalore City Police Housing Co-Operative Society Ltd, formed out of Sy Nos 117, 118, 119 of Kachanayakanhalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 60 Feet and North to South : 40 Feet totally measuring 2400 Sq ft and bounded on: **East By :** Site no 277,**West By :** Road,**North By :**Site no, 3 And **South By :** Part of Site no.4/A, Old No 4. **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY:** 320 Square feet of Undivided Share, right , title and interest in the land comprising in Schedule "A" Property mentioned above together with Three Bed Rooms, Apartment Bearing No 201 in the Second Floor measuring 1310 Square feet of Super built up Area with Vitrified tiles flooring, with One Car Parking Slot be the part of Multi storied residential complex known as '' R.R ENCLAVE" constructed at Schedule 'A' property along with one half part in depth of the joints between the ceiling of the apartments and the floor of the space above it and internal and external walls such level as with concealed wiring with proportionate share in common access and areas of the building like entrance foyer, common corridors in all floors, stair cases including landing up to the terrace, machine room, housing and lift machineries of passenger elevator along with necessary cabin, winches and motor etc, pump sets, houses in pump room along with necessary valves, starters etc, and common areas electrical system. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 44,21,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 4,42,000.00**			
2	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1) SRI SHANMUGHAN E SUNDARAM (BORROWER) No: 511, 7th Cross, 7th Main K N Extension, Gokula 1st Stage Yeshwantpur, Bangalore – 560 022 2) SRI KRISHNA JODIDAR (GUARANTOR) S/O Venkanna Jodidar No.9, Water Tank Road, Yadalam Nagar, Subramanyapura Bangalore – 560 061. 2) Canara Bank - Hombegowda nagar Branch Mob. No. 8521113832	1) Rs. 22,51,682.00 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 15.07.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 15.07.2025 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 20,000/-	1. 16.07.2025 2. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm 3. 14.07.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: Schedule –A: All that piece and parcel of the properties bearing (1) Sy. No. 5/3, measuring 2 acres 27 guntas of land (2) Sy. No. 46, Measuring 2 acres of Land (3) Sy. No. 47, measuring 2 acres of land and (4) Sy. No.48, measuring 2 Acres of land, totally measuring 8 acres 27 guntas excluding Kharab, situated at Andhapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, converted for non agricultural residential purpose through the conversion order bearing No. BDS/ALN/SR (A) 66/2001-02, DATED 26/02/2003 AND BOUNDED ON: **East by :** Property bearing Sy. No. 46 & 5/4, **West by:** Property bearing Sy. No. 49 & 5/1, **North by:** Property bearing Sy. Nos. 5/2, 5/4 & 5/5, And **South by :** Property bearing Sy. No. 45. **Schedule – B:** All that Residential Apartment bearing No. IG 252 in Ground Floor in Block 'I' of "ITTINA NEELA" built in Schedule 'A' property and measuring 660 Sq. ft of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircase and other areas together with 198 Sq.ft. undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property, and in the said apartment the doors are made of flush doors and steel windows and mosaic flooring. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 13,20,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 1,32,000.00**			
3	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1) MANJUNATHA S/O MASTHIGOWDA thippanayakana halli ippadi post, huthridurga hobali kunigal tumkur , karnataka-572130 2)MASTHI GOWDA S/O LATE MALIYAPPA KUNIGAL taluk thippanayakanahalli, seenapanahalli tumkur karnataka-572126. 2) Canara Bank - Wilson garden Branch Mob. No. 9986582232	1) Rs. 2,89,569.31 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 29.07.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 29.07.2025 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 50,000/-	1. 30.07.2025 2. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm 3. 28.07.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets : All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.84,Sy No.33, S.V .PRINCE TOWN situated at Kodigehalli village,Yeshwanthapura Hobli,Bangalore North Taluk,Bengaluru-562130 vbounded by **East** : Site No.34, **West :** Road, **North :** Site No.83, And **South :** Road. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 29,52,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 2,95,200.00**			
4	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1) KUMAR S – S/O Late Shanmuga , No. 10,Sri Krishna Building, Avenue Road entrance, Bangalore 560002. 2) Canara Bank - Mysore bank circle Branch Mob. No. 8651488414	1) Rs. 14,72,360.64 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 15.07.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 15.07.2025 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 20,000/-	1. 16.07.2025 2. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm 3. 14.07.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: Residential BDA FLAT bearing no. ALR-B19-108,measuring 33.526 Sq mts super build up Area, 1 BHK, 1st Floor, 1st Phase,19 th Block,Residential Complex, Alur layout,Alur, Dasanapura hobli, Bangalore North taluk, formed by Bangalore Development Authority,Bangalore constructed over the schedule property along with common facilities passage, Staircase and lifts and bounded on: **East by** :Alur,B19/105, **West by :** Road, **North by** : staircase And **South by** :Alur,B19/107. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 11,26,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 1,12,600.00**			
5	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1) Sri. SriramaiahS/o Shivappa 2) Smt. Kalavathi W/o Sriramaiah 3)Sri. Umakanth K S. S/o Sriramaiah 4) Sri. Punith Kumar K,S/o Sriramaiah All are residing at : #54, Muthyalapete, SiddeshwaraNilaya, Mulbagilu Town, Kolar District 563131 2) Canara Bank - HI Tech Agricultural Finance Branch Mob. No. 9442114042	1) Rs. 26,07,938.96 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 15.07.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 15.07.2025 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 50,000/-	1. 16.07.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 14.07.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: All that piece and parcel of residential property of area 65*55 with three storied building of area 1800 Sq.Ft situated at Town Municipal Council Mulbagal 'A' division New A.D.Palya old Municipal No.2675:F, New No.5074/52 88/17 located at Mulbagal town, Mulabagal taluk, Kolar district. And bounded on : **East by:** Road,**West by:** 15 feet Road, **North by:** Property of Smt. Rathnamma,And **South by:** Road. **Standing in the name of : 1.Smt. Kalavathi W/o Sriramaiah 2.Sri. Umakanth K S. S/o Sriramaiah 3.Sri. Punith Kumar K S/o Sriramaiah 4.Sri. Sriramaiah s/o Shivappa** **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 80,40,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 8,04,000.00**			
6	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1) ANTHONY LEANARD YERRICK (Borrower) S/o Anthony Yerrick 2) Sagaya Mary (Joint Borrower) W/o Anthony leanard yerrick, All are residing at : No 27, 1st Cross, Kanakadasa layout, Lingarajapuram,Bengaluru-560084. 2) Canara Bank - Cox Town Branch Mob. No. 9446691761	1) Rs. 3,98,596.52 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 29.07.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 29.07.2025 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 1,00,000/-	1. 30.07.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 28.07.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
	Description of the immovable/ movable assets: All that piece and parcel of property with two square A.C.C. sheet roofed house along with amenities bearing No.27, comprised in No.28/3,khata No.18, situated at Lingarajapuram(V), Kasaba Hobli, Bangaluru ,560084 And bounded on : **East By:** 30 feet wide road, **West By:** Site No.28, **North By :** Site No.30 And **South By :** Site No.25. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 1,77,53,500.00 B) EMD - Rs. 17,75,350.00**			

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 70107 03787, 2) 7907416232

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Place: Bangalore
Date : 28.06.2025

Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

Noble rot, the alchemist of wines, is setting fungal biology abuzz

In a startling discovery, researchers from Sichuan University and the University of British Columbia have found that *botrytis* fungi cannot be cloned. In these fungi, no single nucleus contains a complete set of chromosomes. Instead, the chromosome set is distributed across two or more nuclei, and any one nucleus contains only a subset

D.P. Kasbekar

A grape vineyard in Moldova, 2017. Botrytis fungi infects grapes with the effect of concentrating the sugars and flavours in them. USAID

In wine-making circles, "noble rot" is an exalted name for the botrytis fungus (*Botrytis cinerea*). It infects grapes, penetrates the skin, causes the berries to lose water by evaporation and shrivel up, and thus concentrates the sugars and flavours in them. Since only a small percentage of grapes in a vineyard are infected, they must be picked by hand.

This makes the picking process labour-intensive and drives up the cost. The crushed grape juice from rotted grapes is used to make high-quality sweet wines like the Sauternes of Bordeaux, the Trockenbeerenauslese of Germany and Austria, and the Tokaji Aszús of Hungary. They are also very expensive.

Befitting its exalted status, the botrytis fungus was also found recently to exhibit an unusual idiosyncrasy. In all animals, plants, and fungi, the nucleus of a cell contains one or more sets of all of the chromosomes of the organism. This property of nuclei allows us to clone animals. Scientists can transfer such a nucleus, which contains all the DNA instructions, into an egg cell whose own nucleus has been removed and, in the right conditions, prompt it to develop into a new organism.

But because of the idiosyncrasy, botrytis fungus cannot be cloned – nor can another fungus called *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*.

A team of researchers from Sichuan University in China and the University of British Columbia in Canada have made a startling discovery: in these fungi, no single nucleus contains a complete set of chromosomes. Instead, the chromosome set is distributed across two or more nuclei, and any one nucleus contains only a subset.

These unexpected findings were reported in *Science*.

Ascomycetes, asci, ascospores

Botrytis and *Sclerotinia* are ascomycetes fungi. The first cell of a baby fungus born following a mating between two ascomycetes fungi is called the ascospore. All the subsequent other cells of the individual are derived from it. This is the defining feature of ascomycetes fungi. The ascospores are produced in a sac-like cell called the ascus (plural asci). An ascus, produced when two parental strains mate, contains two complete sets of chromosomes.

In many well-studied ascomycetes fungi, eight ascospores are made in each ascus. All the nuclei of an individual ascospore are genetically identical. That is, they all have the same set of chromosomes. *B. cinerea* and *S. sclerotiorum* also make asci with eight spores. The researchers had no reason to suspect them to be any different.

How are discoveries made?

People are often curious to know how scientists make their discoveries. Most discoveries originate in experiments that did not work in the way they were meant to. Sadly, the converse is not true.

The most common explanation for experiments that don't work the way were meant to is some kind of "operator error" – i.e. a silly mistake of some kind: a growth medium was not properly made, the incubator was not set to the right temperature, the wrong strain was used, etc. Silly mistakes are more common than serendipitous leads.

Not surprisingly, scientists get mad with experiments that don't work. But once in a while, this type of experiment is a harbinger of an unexpected discovery. This is the scientist's dilemma.

Improbable versus true

The research team set out to obtain mutants of *S. sclerotiorum*. For this they exposed the ascospores to ultraviolet light. Each *S. sclerotiorum* ascospore contains two nuclei. Both nuclei were assumed to carry the same set of chromosomes. UV-induced mutations occur at random. Therefore, it was highly unlikely the same gene would become inactivated in both nuclei of an ascospore.

Consequently, a colony containing mutant cells was also expected to include a sector with non-mutant cells. The non-mutant cells would have nuclei descended from the ascospore nucleus with the non-mutant gene.

Botrytis cinerea also called noble rot infects grapes, penetrates the skin, causes the berries to lose water by evaporation and shrivel up, and thus concentrates the sugars and flavours in them

But in the experiment, of the more than 100 mutant colonies the researchers examined, all contained only mutant cells. None of them had a non-mutant sector. This was most unexpected. Why weren't any non-mutant cells seen in these colonies?

This observation set the researchers up for their Sherlock Holmes moment: "When you have eliminated all which is impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

Could the two nuclei between them contain only one set of chromosomes?

Closer examination

The researchers wrote in their paper: "Because this prediction challenges established principles of chromosome biology, we conducted a closer examination of the ascospores' nuclei and chromosomes."

They used molecular probes that bind specifically to individual chromosomes, allowing them to say whether or not a nucleus contains the chromosome. When the probes were used individually, they lit up exclusively one nucleus per ascospore. The probe never lit up both nuclei.

This meant the two nuclei harboured distinct chromosome sets. When both probes were used together, in some ascospores the signals showed up in only one nucleus and in other ascospores the signals were seen in both nuclei. This meant the distribution of chromosomes in the nuclei differed between ascospores.

Further tests revealed that each nucleus of a *S. sclerotiorum* or *B. cinerea* ascospore contained only three to eight chromosomes.

New questions

The findings have already spawned many questions in the research community. What is the mechanism by which chromosomes are allocated to the different nuclei? How is genetic integrity preserved during cell division? What restores a complete set of chromosomes when the fungus mates, and with its mating partner forms new asci? Which genes and mechanisms are involved in chromosome sorting and regulation? What advantage does chromosome distribution confer to *Botrytis* and *Sclerotinia*?

The questions have generated a new buzz in fungal biology. Right now, scientists doing research with fruit flies, nematodes, zebrafish, mice, and other model organisms might be envying those working with rot fungi – noble or otherwise.

(D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist. kasbekardp@yahoo.co.in)

THE GIST

Botrytis and *Sclerotinia* are ascomycetes fungi. The first cell of a baby fungus born following a mating between ascomycetes is called an ascospore. These are produced in a cell called the ascus, which contains two sets of chromosomes

Researchers used molecular probes that bind to individual chromosomes. When the probes were used individually, they lit up exclusively one nucleus per ascospore. This meant the two nuclei harboured distinct chromosome sets

The findings have spawned many questions. What is the mechanism by which chromosomes are allocated? How is genetic integrity preserved? What advantage does chromosome distribution confer to *Botrytis* and *Sclerotinia*?

BIG SHOT

Wild ducks pass a woman and a child in the Black Lake as tourists and locals seek refuge from a heat wave in the mountains of Montenegro, on June 25, 2025. Meteorologists in Serbia said June 25 was the hottest day in the Balkan country since measurements began in the 19th century, and forecast even higher temperatures into the weekend. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

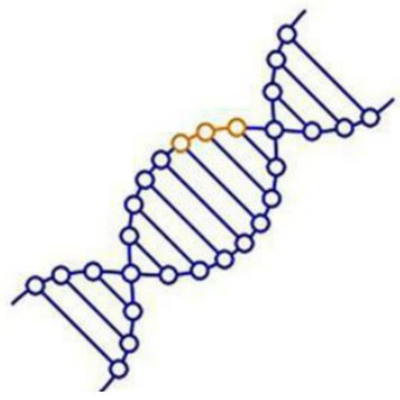
Synthetic genome: DNA from scratch

Vasudevan Mukunth

Between 1990 and 2003, more than 2,800 scientists around the world sequenced almost the entire human genome. This was the Human Genome Project (HGP), which, at a cost of $2.7 billion, aimed to identify every human gene and make the data freely accessible to accelerate biology and medicine. By 2003, the team had produced the first reference human genome, covering 92% of the 3.1 billion bases.

The effort led to better genome sequencing technologies, anticipated policy decisions on genomic discrimination and IP rights, and paved the way for genome-wide association studies.

Now, researchers in the UK have launched the Synthetic HGP (SynHG). Whereas HGP "read" the human genome, SynHG will attempt to "write" it. Over the next five years, scientists from four institutions, including the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, will try to build large pieces of human DNA from scratch, developing the necessary knowledge and technologies along the way. For starters, they will be supported by a GBP 10 million grant from the Wellcome Trust.



A new scientific project has become controversial over the risk of scientists being able to create 'designer babies.' GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Prof. Robin Lovell-Badge of the Francis Crick Institute said he was "very enthusiastic" about SynHG and added, "It is critical when developing new technology to understand not just issues of potential utility, but also those concerned with safety and risk and, very importantly, the societal values on which it may impinge."

The project has already become controversial over the risk of scientists being able to create "designer babies" — a concept unnervingly close to eugenics — and engineered microbes that might escape into the wild and damage fragile ecosystems.

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for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Third rail testing on elevated section for Pink Line begins

BMRCL is starting the exercise on the strectch between Jayadeva and Tavarekere metro stations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The much awaited Pink Line of Namma Metro has made an important progress with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) starting 'third rail' testing, a crucial electrification procedure on the elevated stretch between Jayadeva and Tavarekere metro stations.

This marks the beginning of a series of mandatory trials ahead of the corridor's eventual commissioning. BMRCL officials confirmed that the testing is currently limited to the elevated portion of the Kalena Agrahara-Nagawara line. As part of its standard safety protocols, the third rail which supplies power to the metro trains must undergo rigorous evaluation before further systems are tested.

A senior BMRCL official said, "The third rail testing is the first of many technical validations that ensure the reliability and safety of the line. After this, we will conduct signal system validations, test the telecommunications network, and carry out loading trials to assess structural stability under operating conditions."

As part of its standard safety protocols, the third rail which supplies power to the metro trains must undergo rigorous evaluation before further systems are tested. K. MURALI KUMAR

Missing deadlines

The Pink Line, which has faced multiple delays, was initially scheduled to open in 2020. That deadline was later moved to December 2025. However, BMRCL has now clarified that the corridor will only become operational in 2026, with phased commissioning planned.

Earlier the officials said that the 7.5-km elevated stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere is expected to open by March 2026, while the 13.8-km underground section between Dairy Circle and Nagawara is projected to be ready by September 2026.

Spanning a total distance of 21.3 km, the Pink Line is part of Phase 2 of Bengaluru's expanding metro network. It is constructed to connect Kalena Agrahara on Bannerghatta Road in the south to Nagawara on the Outer Ring Road in the north part of the city, to improve north-south metro connectivity across the city.

The alignment comprises 13.8 km of underground tunnels and 7.5 km of elevated viaducts. The tender for the elevated section was floated as early as 2017, but progress has been gradual due to various engineering and logistical challenges.

Officials admitted that the most significant hurdles were faced in the underground section. "Tunnelling through Bengaluru's geology is exceptionally difficult. We encountered massive granite and dolerite boulders. Granite is already tough to drill through, but dolerite is even denser and more resistant to excavation equipment," official added.

One of the most complex and delayed portions was the 2.2-km tunnel between Shivajinagar and Vellara Junction, where progress slowed considerably due to the rocky terrain and congested urban surroundings. This segment has been cited as a major reason for repeated revisions in the project's completion dates.

However, BMRCL achieved a major breakthrough in October 2024, when it completed tunnelling works for the entire underground section. Though the underground alignment stretches 14 km, the tunnelling distance reached 21 km due to the twin-bore configuration-two parallel tunnels constructed for bi-directional train movement.

Residents of Holiday Village Road pray for divine intervention to fix severely deteriorated road

Residents of Holiday Village Road, off Kanakapura Road, protesting against the bad condition of the road after doing a puja at Sri Muthuraya Swamy Temple at Vajarahalli in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Vehicles commuting on a bad stretch of Holiday Village Road on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a symbolic protest against years of neglect, residents of Holiday Village Road at Mallasandra, off Kanakapura Road, gathered at a local temple on Sunday to perform a 'puja', praying for divine intervention to fix the severely deteriorated road that has become a daily hazard.

Frustrated by crumbling infrastructure and repeated inaction by authorities, residents initially planned to perform a '*homa*' (ritual with fire) as a form of protest.

However, they were requested by the temple priest to postpone the ritual until after the road is repaired, as the ritual is believed to be more auspicious after positive developments. Instead, they performed a regular puja as a mark of their protest, according to residents.

Tense situation

The situation, however, turned tense when residents alleged that police stopped them on their way to the temple to perform the ritual.

"We were only trying to peacefully highlight our plight through a religious act. It was disappointing to face obstruction," said one resident. Police reportedly told protesting residents that any form of protest outside Freedom Park was illegal.

Last two years

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Guru Prasad, a resident of one of the eight apartment complexes in the area, said the road has been in a terrible state for the last two years. "Despite multiple assurances from the authorities and elected representatives, the contractor has failed to act. The condition has worsened with the rains. Two-wheeler riders often skid, and even school vans face trouble navigating the stretch."

Another resident, who preferred not to be named, recalled how two school buses were stuck in slush last year and had to be lifted by cranes. "We met our MLA, S.T. Somashekar, and were promised that the issue would be addressed, but nothing has changed," the resident said.

"The puja protest was organised to draw the attention of civic authorities and elected representatives to the dire state of the road and the increasing risk to public safety. As the monsoon intensifies, we have no choice but to continue our demonstrations until our demands for basic infrastructure are met," he added.

Bike taxi riders across State stage hunger strike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bike taxi drivers and their families on Sunday launched a State-wide hunger protest across Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya, Davanagere, and Ramanagara, urging the Karnataka government to revoke the ongoing ban on bike taxi services. The Bike Taxi Welfare Association termed the strike "a final cry for survival after being pushed to the brink".

In the release, the association stated that their primary means of income was taken away, many riders say they are unable to provide for their households.

"For years, bike taxis have been a lifeline for both riders and commuters. In big cities like Bengaluru, they help people beat traffic and get to where they need to go quickly. In smaller towns and rural areas, they're often the only source of income for young people who don't have access to other jobs," release stated.

'Clear inconsistency'

The association is particularly angered by what they describe as a clear inconsistency in government policy.

While two-wheelers are permitted for use in delivery services including food and parcels the association says they are penalised when the same vehicles are used to ferry passengers.

Protesters also wrote appeals to the Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, calling for urgent intervention and reversal of the ban.

'Month-long e-khata campaign in July'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that a month-long campaign will be held from July 1 to issue e-khatas to property owners in the city.

Speaking at a first-of-its-kind 'E-Khata Mela' at Sahakarnagar, Byatarayanapura Assembly constituency represented by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Sunday, Mr. Shivakumar termed protection of properties against fraudulent transactions through e-khatas as another "guarantee" by the Congress government.

He said of the over 25 lakh properties in Bengaluru, e-khatas were issued to 5.34 lakh properties already.

"The e-khata programme has won a gold medal for e-governance initiative by the Union government. Combined with Nambike Nakshe, under which we have given deemed plan sanctions to over 9,000 buildings online, e-khata programme is essentially bringing civic services to your doorstep and cutting down on corruption," he said.

A resident receiving e-khatha document from Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda at 'E-Khatha Mela' at Sahakarnagar in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The mela in Sahakarnagar saw overwhelming response with over 4,000 tokens issued to e-khata applicants and 677 final e-khatas issued at the spot on Sunday. Responding to demands by property owners in the constituency, the mela has been extended to Monday as well.

Of the 1.81 lakh properties in Byatarayanapura, over 51,000 properties have been issued e-khatas. Mr. Shivakumar said that similar e-khata melas will be held in other Assembly constituencies as well.

Karnataka Bank MD and Executive Director resign

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Karnataka Bank Managing Director and CEO Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma and Executive Director Sekhar Rao have resigned from their positions.

Accepting their resignations, the Board of Directors of the Bank on Sunday constituted a search committee to identify a new MD & CEO and Executive Director, said a late-night release from the Bank.

The release quoted Mr. Sarma, citing personal reasons, including his decision to relocate back to Mumbai, as the reason for his resignation.

Mr. Rao has cited the inability to relocate to Mangaluru and other personal reasons.

Carcasses of deer and wild boar seized by Forest Dept. officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In addition, a double-barrelled gun, a single-barrelled gun, 10 cartridges, a bike, and another car were seized

Forest Department officials in Bengaluru seized the carcasses of a deer and a wild boar along with 74 kg of deer meat on Sunday.

Following instructions of Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre, a team of department officials from the Bengaluru Circle intercepted a car near the Bannerghatta-NICE Road junction.

Upon inspection they found the carcasses of four spotted deer and a wild boar in the car.

The officials arrested the driver of the car, Pratap, 31, and during interrogation, it was revealed that there were more deer carcasses and deer meat stored in a shed at C.K. Palya.

The officials later raided the shed and found the carcasses and nearly 74 kg of deer meat. In total, the carcasses of nine deer and one wild boar, along with deer meat was recorded.

In addition, a double-barrelled gun, a single-barrelled gun, 10 cartridges, a bike, and another car were seized.

The owner of the shed, Bhimappa, and two other persons, Balaraju and Ramesh, who had kept the deer meat, are missing.

A case has been registered against the accused under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Officials said that Mr. Khandre instructed the Forest Department to conduct an operation based on specific information that a group of persons was killing deer in the Bannerghatta forest area and selling deer meat.

The operation was led by Chief Conservator of Forests Bengaluru Circle. S. Sivashankar, Bengaluru Urban Deputy Conservator of Forests N. Ravindra Kumar, and Assistant Conservator of Forests V. Ganesh.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 30	
RISE	05:57 SET 18:50
RISE	10:22 SET 22:57
TUESDAY, JUL. 01	
RISE	05:57 SET 18:50
RISE	11:10 SET 23:32
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 02	
RISE	05:58 SET 18:50
RISE	11:56 SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Banu Mushtaq to chair 88th Kannada literary meet in Ballari

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Committee resolves to felicitate journalist and writer Deepa Bhasthi during the sammelana

Kannada writer and International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq has been unanimously chosen as president of the 88th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana scheduled to be held in Ballari in December 2025.

The decision was announced by president of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) Mahesh Joshi at a press conference following an executive committee meeting of the parishat at a private hotel there on Sunday.

Mr. Joshi said that it was a matter of great pride that a senior woman writer has been chosen to preside over the literary conclave.

"Among the 87 sammelans so far, only four have been chaired by women writers. Now, Banu Mushtaq becomes the fifth to receive this honour," he said.

"The executive committee also considered the names of senior writers Veena Shanteshwari and Malati Pattanashetti, but eventually finalised Banu Mushtaq," Mr. Joshi said and added that Ms. Mushtaq has accepted the invitation.

"The decision of the executive committee was communicated to Ms. Mushtaq and she has accepted it. She responded positively saying that it is an honour and serving Kannada is her duty," Mr. Joshi said.

The committee also resolved to specially felicitate journalist and writer Deepa Bhasthi during the sammelan, in recognition of her contribution in bringing Ms. Mushtaq's literary work to the global audience.

"I have held preliminary discussions regarding the sammelana with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi. They have all welcomed the decision and congratulated Ms. Mushtaq," he said.

With this appointment, Ms. Mushtaq joins a distinguished group of women who have previously presided. over the sahitya sammelana: Jayadevi Tai Ligade in Mandya (1971), Shantadevi Malawad in Bagalkot (2000), Kamala Hampana in Moodbidri (2003), and Geeta Nagabhushana in Gadag (2010).

Woman killed, two injured in road accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 52-year-old woman was killed and two others, including a minor boy, injured after a cement-laden lorry rammed their scooter on the NICE Road entry in Nayandahalli on Saturday afternoon.

The deceased has been identified as Renuka G.N., a resident of Basaveshwaranagar. The injured are Kusuma, 32, who was driving the scooter and her son Mokshit, 9.

According to the police, the accused driver, Govardhan, 32, was allegedly speeding and driving recklessly on Nayandahalli Ring Road towards Nice Road and rammed their scooter.

The police have booked the lorry driver under Sections 281 (rash driving), 125(A) (endangering human life), and 106(1), of BNS and are further investigating.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Death toll due to monsoons in Himachal Pradesh

20 The meteorological centre in Shimla issued a "red" alert for very heavy downpour in 10 districts of Himachal Pradesh, while services on the Shimla-Kalka rail line were suspended for hours till the debris and trees which had fallen on the tracks following rains were removed. PTI

Revenue generated by the Similipal Tiger Reserve in 2024-2025

4.26 In ₹ crore. The Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha will be closed to tourists from July 1 because of the monsoon. While ₹1.22 crore was earned from jungle safaris, ₹2.75 crore was collected from nature camps inside the park and ₹29 lakh from permits. PTI

Annual cost to the National Health Service due to obesity

11 In £ billion. The U.K. unveiled a healthy food revolution that will see the government strike partnerships with industry to nudge people towards making better choices and pack their shopping baskets with healthier foods to tackle growing obesity rates. Obesity has doubled in the U.K. since the 1990s. PTI

Value of stocks sold by Nvidia insiders in the past year

1 in $ billion. More than $500 million of the share sales took place this month as the California-based chip designer's share price climbed to an all-time high. Jensen Huang, Nvidia's chief executive, started selling shares this week for the first time since September, the SEC filing showed. REUTERS

Tuvaluans that have applied for a climate visa to Australia

1,124 More than one-third of the people in the tiny Pacific nation of Tuvalu, which scientists predict will be submerged by rising seas, have applied for a landmark climate visa to migrate to Australia, as per official figures. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why is the ECI de-listing political parties?

What are the requirements for registering a political party with the Election Commission of India? What are the benefits enjoyed by Registered Unrecognised Political Parties? Does the Election Commission have explicit power to de-register a political party?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has initiated steps to de-list 345 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) that have not contested elections in the last six years and whose offices could not be physically located.

What are registered parties?

The right to form an association is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution to all citizens. Political parties are an association or body of individuals that can be formed by citizens.

Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) lays down the requirements for registration of a political party with the ECI. Any political party that seeks registration should submit a copy of its memorandum/constitution within 30 days of its formation. Such a document should contain a provision that the party shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India. It should also bear allegiance to the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy, and uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India. The ECI reviews the memorandum/constitution of the political party to verify that it contains provisions for internal democracy like periodic elections for its office bearers. The ECI thereafter registers them as a RUPP.

The RUPPs enjoy the following benefits – (a) tax exemption for donations received under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, (b) a common symbol for contesting general elections to the Lok Sabha/State Assemblies, and (c) 20 'star campaigners' during election campaigns.

RUPPs are required to maintain the details of individual donors who have donated above ₹20,000 in a financial year and submit these details to the ECI every year. As per Section 29C of the RP Act, failure to furnish these details will result in losing income tax exemption. The RUPPs under the Income Tax Act, 1961, are further required to accept donations in excess of ₹2000 only through cheque or bank transfers.

Counting parties: Tribal women voters with their babies stand in queues to cast their votes during the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha polls, at Ulihatu in Khuti in May 2024. ANI

What are the issues?

As per ECI notification, there are more than 2,800 RUPPs in India as of May 2025. However, only around 750 of them contested the 2024 general elections. It has resulted in the moniker – 'letter pad parties' – for the rest of the RUPPs. The RP Act does not confer explicit powers on the ECI to de-register any political party if it fails to contest elections, conduct inner-party elections or lodge requisite returns. The Supreme Court in *Indian National Congress versus Institute of Social Welfare & Ors* (2002) had held that the ECI does not have the power to de-register any political party under the RP Act. It may de-register only under exceptional circumstances such as the registration being obtained by fraud or the political party ceasing to have allegiance to the Indian Constitution or if it is declared unlawful by the Government.

The ECI from time to time publishes the list of de-listed and inactive RUPPs. The notification of March 2024 (as amended till May 2025), contains the list of 281 de-listed and 217 inactive RUPPs. Parties have been de-listed after they were found to be 'non-existent' at their address even after notices from the ECI. Political parties that have not updated the material changes including the list of office bearers since 2014 have been classified as 'inactive'. These parties are denied the benefit of putting up candidates with a common symbol in an election. Considering the provisions of the RP Act and the Income Tax Act, they would also become ineligible for tax exemptions.

What needs to be done?

The present exercise has identified 345 RUPPs that have not contested any elections since 2019 and could not be physically located anywhere. The ECI has directed the Chief Electoral Officer of various States and Union Territories to issue show-cause notices to these RUPPs before deciding on de-listing them. This is a welcome step that would prevent such 'letter pad parties' from misusing the income tax exemptions or committing any other financial fraud.

There are still likely to be more than 1000 'active' RUPPs that do not regularly contest elections. The Law Commission in its 255th report (2015) had recommended amendments for de-registration of a political party if it fails to contest elections for 10 consecutive years. The ECI in its memorandum for electoral reforms (2016) had also suggested amendment to the RP Act that would empower it to de-register a party. Apart from the exercise of de-listing RUPPs, these recommendations can also be implemented. Another serious issue plaguing almost all political parties is the lack of inner-party democracy. It may not be ideal for an independent constitutional authority like the ECI to be involved in the muddle of party politics. However, as suggested by the Law Commission in its 170th and 255th report, the RP Act can be suitably amended to contain specific provisions for ensuring internal democracy in political parties.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- The right to form an association is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution to all citizens.
- Any political party that seeks registration should submit a copy of its memorandum/constitution within 30 days of its formation. After review, the ECI will register them as a RUPP.
- As per a ECI notification, there are more than 2,800 RUPPs in India as of May 2025. However, only around 750 of them contested the 2024 general elections.

Why did Axiom-4 need 28 hours to reach the ISS?

Why did Axiom Space and NASA specifically use SpaceX's Dragon crew capsule for this mission?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

On June 25, a crew capsule containing four astronauts, including India's Group Capt. Shubhanshu Shukla on his first spaceflight, lifted off atop a Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's spaceport in Florida. The lift-off marked the start of the Axiom-4 mission. By the time the rocket's two stages had completed their work, the crew capsule – called Dragon – was travelling at several thousand kilometres per hour. The capsule's destination was the International Space Station (ISS), which orbits the earth at roughly 400 km above sea level. At the time of lift-off, Axiom Space, which was orchestrating the mission, said Dragon would dock with the ISS in 28 hours.

Why did it need 28 hours?

It helps to picture the capsule and the ISS as two race-cars on separate lanes of the same track rather than as a car trying to drive straight up to a spot 400 km ahead. Everything happens sideways around the earth, and the choreography is dictated by orbital mechanics and strict safety rules.

To share the ISS's lane, the capsule needed to match both its altitude and its velocity vector. This was achieved using raw speed as well as timing. Going straight up 400 km would leave Dragon with virtually zero sideways speed, causing it to fall back almost immediately – like a ball that has been thrown up.

The Falcon 9 rocket vaulted Dragon into a low, slightly elliptical parking orbit about 200 km high. Its speed there was around 27,000 km/hr, which the capsule maintained just to avoid spiralling back down towards the ground.

The ISS is also higher than this parking orbit, at around 400 km, and therefore circles the earth a little more slowly to avoid spiralling down. While the ISS takes around 92 minutes to go around the earth once, Dragon started by taking around 88 minutes.

Thus, by being lower than the ISS, Dragon slowly fell behind in its orbit until it had caught up with the ISS.

After its system check-outs, the Dragon capsule performed a series of small thruster burns, also known as phasing burns, to first raise its apogee (the point of its elliptical orbit farthest from the earth) and then its whole orbit.

Each of these burns was timed such that after completing several orbits, Dragon ended up being exactly where the ISS would be. This was somewhat like merging into a highway at the right exit rather than steering straight towards another car.

What preparations were taken before docking?

For the Axiom-4 mission, the mission planners designed a pre-docking profile that lasted about 28 hours, or about 18 orbits.

At the end of this profile, the Dragon crew capsule was on the correct side of the ISS, where a free docking port was located, and at a time when the ISS crew was awake.

Once Dragon came within 30 km or so of the ISS, it moved itself into a 'corridor' aligned with the ISS. From here, the rules required the capsule to move at no more than a few metres per second. Once it was within 20 m of the ISS, Dragon was to slow to a few centimetres per second.

There are holding points at 400 m, 220 m, 20 m, and 1 m from the ISS, where the Dragon crew, including Group Capt. Shukla – who is the designated mission pilot – would have had to perform go/no-go polls and LIDAR checks. Even if there had been one wrong sensor reading in this process, Dragon would have been required to retreat from the ISS along a pre-programmed path.

This deliberate pacing alone added several hours to the crew capsule's approach towards the ISS.

The fact that Axiom Space and NASA used SpaceX's Dragon crew capsule for this mission is also relevant. It allowed the mission operators to opt for a more conservative, fuel-rich profile that also allowed the crew to finish check-outs, eat, and sleep before starting the intense docking exercise.

THE GIST

- On June 25, a crew capsule containing four astronauts lifted off atop a Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's spaceport in Florida. The lift-off marked the start of the Axiom-4 mission.
- It helps to picture the capsule and the ISS as two race-cars on separate lanes of the same track rather than as a car trying to drive straight up to a spot 400 km ahead.
- To share the ISS's lane, the capsule needed to match both its altitude and its velocity vector. This was achieved using raw speed as well as timing.

EDUCATIONPLUS

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The lost art of curiosity

In higher education, curiosity shouldn't be a luxury. It should be the compass.

Rutu Mody-Kamdar

During a session on consumer behaviour in an MBA class, the discussion was on the rise of D2C brands in India and the shifts in how young consumers make choices. Midway, a student asked, "Ma'am, what are the top three points I should write if this comes in the exam?"

I paused; not because it was a 'wrong' question but because it was such a narrow one. Here we were, dissecting the complex interplay of aspiration, identity, digital influence, and social currency and the question was reduced to a list. It struck me then how our entire approach to learning had moved from understanding to extracting. From wonder to utility. From "Why is this happening?" to "What should I write?"

We're living in a world of fast answers. Of Google summaries, bullet points, AI-generated notes, and 60-second explainers. Where knowledge is accessible but curiosity is optional. But here's the thing: the smartest people in the room are rarely the ones with the fastest answers. They're the ones asking better questions.

Questions matter

In higher education, curiosity shouldn't be a luxury. It should be the compass. Whether you're studying Business, Engineering, Design, or Law, your ability to ask layered, thoughtful, open-ended questions is what takes you from surface-level familiarity to real understanding. A student in a media studies class once asked, "Why do Indian news channels use red tickers and dramatic music? Do viewers prefer that?" That opened up a conversation on psychology, sensationalism, visual communication, and public trust. It wasn't in the syllabus. But it was education at its best.

Good questions expand the conversation. They don't just clarify; they open windows. But not all questions are equal. The ones that truly sharpen thinking and signal a keen mind fall into a few key types:

Bridge Questions: "How does this connect to something I already know?" For example, in a sociology class, "Is the way we view marriage today shaped more by Bollywood or tradition?"

Lens-Shifting Questions: "Who's missing from this narrative?" For example, in a course on development economics: "What would this data look like if we asked women in rural India instead of urban youth?"

What-if Questions: "What changes if one factor is flipped?" For example, in a history class: "What if the printing press had never been invented? How would power have shifted?"

Uncomfortable Questions: "Is this idea as neutral as it seems?" For example, in a branding lecture: "Are luxury brands truly aspirational? Or do they thrive on social inequality?"

Questions like these show independent thinking. They show that the student is not just absorbing information, but playing with it. Part of the problem is systemic. We've been conditioned to chase grades, not growth. To optimise for output, not exploration. Even the classroom rewards memorisation over meaning. Part of it is cultural too. In a hyper-connected, hyper-competitive world, there's pressure to sound smart, not curious. We are afraid of asking a question that makes us look like we don't know.

Ask away

But the truth is that every breakthrough, every innovation, every deep insight begins with not knowing. The willingness to ask is a quiet form of courage. So how do you rebuild the curiosity muscle? Here are a few simple practices:

Begin a Questions Log: After each lecture, note one question that wasn't answered. Doesn't matter how random. Track it over a semester; you'll be amazed.

Teach It backwards: Imagine you have to explain today's topic to your younger sibling. What questions would you ask to help them get there?

Slow the scroll: Next time you see a trending topic, don't just read the summary. Ask yourself: "What's the larger issue here that no one's talking about?"

Sit With Confusion: Instead of rushing to Google for every doubt, give yourself five minutes to think. Mull. Doodle. Let your brain try first.

Years from now, when you're working on a business plan, crafting a policy, designing a product, or making a big life choice, what will matter is not whether you remembered every framework or formula. It's whether you knew how to ask: "What's going on here?", "Who does this impact the most?" "What am I not seeing yet?" Because that's what smart looks like. Not fast. But curious.

The writer is the founder of Jigsaw Brand Consultants.

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Rewards: Up to ₹50,000 per annum and other benefits.
Application: Offline to G.P. Birla Educational Foundation, 78, Syed Amir Ali Avenue, Kolkata 700019
Deadline: July 15
www.b4s.in/edge/GBES4

JMS Trust Merit Scholarships
Offered by the JM Sethia Charitable Trust
Eligibility: Students who have passed their last qualifying exam in 2025 and are currently in school (Classes 9, 10, 11, 12), UG or PG or a professional course after having secured specified marks in the respective level of study.
Rewards: ₹1,000 monthly
Application: Offline to JM Sethia Charitable Trust, 133, Biplabi Rash Behari Basu Road, third floor, room no. 15, Kolkata - 700 001
Deadline: July 31
www.b4s.in/edge/JMST1

Dr. Reddy's Foundation Sashakt Scholarship
An initiative of Dr. Reddy's Foundation (NGO)
Eligibility: Female Indian students who have passed Class 12 from a recognised Board who have a strong academic record and are willing to pursue a B.Tech in Natural/ Pure Sciences, MBBS, or BSc. programme in a specified institutions across India.
Rewards: ₹80,000 per annum
Application: Online
Deadline: October 30
www.b4s.in/edge/RFTS4

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

InnoVent hackathon

Tata Technologies has launched the 3rd edition of InnoVent, its engineering innovation hackathon, in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS).

Theme: Innovating the future of Smart Mobility involves harnessing AI, Generative AI, Agentic AI, IoT, Embedded Software, Cloud Computing, Digital Twins and AR/VR to develop impactful solutions for pressing challenges in the mobility sector.

Eligibility: Third- and fourth-year engineering students across India.

The evaluation process will consist of three stages: initial reviews, virtual Proof of Concept (PoC) presentations, and final demonstrations.

Rewards: Cumulative cash prizes worth ₹4.5 lakhs, paid internship opportunities at Tata Technologies, and special recognition awards for the most creative projects and innovative physical prototypes.

Deadline: July 30

For more information and to apply, visit https://t.ly/JaiWs

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Upgrade your skills

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

I am 26 and have completed B.Sc., M.Sc. and B.Ed. and am preparing for the UPSC. I've always been a meritorious student but am struggling to find a job. My parents insist I do an MBA. Please guide me. Name withheld

While you are feeling vulnerable and overwhelmed right now, remember you have a solid academic background. Allow yourself time to process your emotions without judgment. Consult a career counsellor who can help you identify your core strengths and interests and help you make an informed decision. Reassess your career aspirations and goals. Are you still passionate about public service? If yes, consider alternative paths within the government sector. If not, explore other options such as teaching or research, content creation/writing, or the state-level civil services, which are less competitive.
Regarding the MBA, have an honest conversation with your parents and explain why this is not be a right fit for you. Identify any skill gaps and take steps to address them by taking online courses, workshops, or volunteer opportunities to gain practical experience. Develop transferable skills, such as communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Above all, take care of your mental health.

My sister is a first-year MBBS student in Tajikistan and wishes to retake the NEET. Can she do so while enrolled in an MBBS programme abroad? If she qualifies, will this score be valid to do a PG course or practise medicine in India after completing MBBS? Also, can she take the exam in a GCC country? Deva

Dear Deva,
She can retake the NEET as long as she fulfils the eligibility criteria. She will need to manage her time effectively and balance her MBBS studies with NEET preparation. NEET-UG is for admission to the MBBS course in India. NEET-PG is for MD/MS in India. To be eligible for NEET-PG, she will need to have an MBBS degree recognised by the National Medical Commission (NMC) of India. An MBBS degree from a foreign university needs to be validated by the NMC through the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) or the National Exit Test (NEXT) (which will replace FMGE). Passing the FMGE/NEXT is mandatory for foreign medical graduates. To practise medicine in India, she needs to have an MBBS degree recognised by the NMC and be registered with the State Medical Council. In recent years, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has established exam centres, especially in the Gulf countries, due to the large number of Indian students residing there and wanting to apply for the NEET exam. However, refer to the official NTA website for the most current information regarding the NEET exams and schedule. To take the exam in a GCC country, she needs to ensure that the NTA conducts the exam in that specific country and that she meets the requirements of the exam centre selection and application procedures.

I am doing B.A. (History, Political Science and Public Administration) and also attending UPSC coaching classes. Is it all right to attempt the government exams with just a B.A.? Or should I do an M.A. first? Darshita

Dear Darshita,
Your B.A. combination of provides a strong foundation to attempt the UPSC and other government exams. Explore other government exams that align with your interests and qualifications. If are interested in research or academia, an M.A.or a Ph.D. would be necessary. An M.A. will provide deeper knowledge in your chosen subjects, which will be beneficial for the optional papers in the UPSC exam or for specialised government roles. Identify your strength and weakness and work on improving the latter. Prioritise your UPSC coaching and exam preparation, practise answering the papers and take mock tests regularly.

I am doing an M.A. in Environmental Studies. I don't have any tech skills and am not familiar with coding. I am giving the Civil Services Exam, but am worried about what to do if I do not clear it. Sandeep

Dear Sandeep,
Your Master's equips you with knowledge of environmental issues, policy, and sustainability and will have developed research, analytical, and communication skills, that are transferable to many fields. Focus on your strengths. Other options include working with NGOs or non-profits in the environment sector, roles in the government apart from the UPSC in policy implementation, environmental monitoring, or public awareness campaigns, education and communication, sustainability and CSR, research and academia, environmental writing and so on. Consider upgrading your skillset in areas such as Geographic Information Systems, Data Analysis, Project Management and so on.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

CACHE

GETTY IMAGES

How will the new U.S. visa rules affect online privacy and security?

Why is the U.S. administration vetting social media profiles of visitors and students to the U.S.? Can prospective visa applicants remove their social media entirely in order to avoid the hassle of such online scrutiny? Why are minors especially vulnerable to such policy changes?

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On June 23, the U.S. Embassy in India said in an X post, "Effective immediately, all individuals applying for an F, M, or J non-immigrant visa are requested to adjust the privacy settings on all of their social media accounts to public to facilitate vetting necessary to establish their identity and admissibility to the United States under U.S. law." With this update, the process for securing certain types of U.S. visas – including for studying there – has become precarious.

How does this affect students' visa applications?

While social media vetting for U.S. visas has been in place since 2019, the new announcement signals that foreign students are set to face unprecedented levels of surveillance when travelling to the U.S. for study and/or work.

Some of the social media accounts that users will now have to flag on their visa application and make public for inspection include Reddit, Instagram, Tumblr, Twitter (now X), Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube, apart from several Chinese social media platforms and other websites that users may submit independently (such as Threads, Bluesky, unlisted blogging spaces, or personal websites).

This means that both personal and professional qualifications, posts, replies, uploaded photos/videos, past comments, tagged pictures/posts, status updates, and even "liked" content will need to be made visible to U.S. government authorities, where possible.

Why are U.S. immigration officers checking social media accounts?

In light of pro-Palestinian student protests and anti-ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) demonstrations across U.S. cities, officials likely want to make sure that Indian students coming into the country will not support such activities or express anti-Israeli views.

Vetting visa applicants' social media feeds also means that authorities can check if the individual's views align with those of the conservative Trump administration which is now in power.

How long will social media accounts have to be left open?

U.S. visa seekers are being asked to list all social media handles they have used in the last five years, and then make them public.

Users can first carry out a social media audit to clean up their accounts and remove any sensitive or personal media before opening it up to the public. Minors should carry out this activity with the guidance of a trusted adult. Notifications, app alerts, messaging filters, and parental controls may need to be updated as well, to prevent disruption after the account goes public.

No official guidance has been issued as to how long the accounts need to be left open. However, visa applicants who want to play it safe can keep their accounts publicly visible from the time they submit their application up to the time they pass their immigration checks after entering the U.S. However, visa applicants who are not comfortable with keeping all their social media accounts public should contact their relevant institutions or admissions officers in order to learn the latest policies and know when it is advisable to go private again.

While deleting social media accounts entirely may sound like a way to avoid this hassle, some tech companies keep even deleted accounts active for several weeks or months. These accounts may still show up in search results when the vetting process begins, possibly jeopardising the visa application.

What are the risks of making social media accounts public?

Privacy, censorship, and security risks abound. First and foremost, many Indian students who apply for U.S. visas for academic study are usually minors in high-school. For them, keeping their social media accounts set to private is more than just a personal preference; it is crucial for their safety online.

Many young users learning to navigate online spaces might post highly personal content or photos and videos across private accounts, secure in the knowledge that only people close to them can see their content. Now, however, those hoping to go to the U.S. to study will either have to make their accounts public or scrub personal content from their channels.

The new requirement will also make U.S. visa applicants, and especially children, more vulnerable to digital security crimes such as bullying, hacking, sexual harassment, stalking, blackmail, identify theft, and doxxing.

Increased levels of targeted advertising through accounts made public, including advertising aimed at kids, is another potential threat to consider.

Is it legal to make visa applicants set their social media accounts to public?

Privacy experts have slammed the U.S. government's new social media vetting requirements, likening the country's approach to that of an authoritarian regime. However, they note it is difficult to claim that privacy laws are being broken as visa applicants can choose to ignore the request, though they put their visa application at risk by doing so.

Sophia Cope, Senior Staff Attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), an American digital rights group, said there were many valid reasons for people to have private social media accounts, such as wanting to interact and share content only with trusted contacts.

"The U.S. government is endorsing the violation of a fundamental principle of privacy hygiene by asking those seeking student or exchange visas to set their social media accounts to "public" for the purpose of visa vetting," said Ms. Cope in response to *The Hindu*.

"Ascribing a nefarious intent and penalising would-be students or visitors to the U.S. for keeping their online presence shielded from the general public or for not even being active on social media is an outrage. Moreover, government social media surveillance invades privacy and chills freedom of speech, and it is prone to errors and misinterpretation without ever having been proven effective at assessing security threats," she explained.

"The U.S. must end this dangerous practice."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Test yourself on the history of The Championships at Wimbledon that starts today

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What was the primary reason for hosting the first-ever championships in 1877?

QUESTION 2
Who was the first-ever (and only) winner in the inaugural event and what was the reward he got?

QUESTION 3
Roger Federer has a record eight Gentlemen's Singles titles. Apart from Novak Djokovic, which two men have seven triumphs against their name?

QUESTION 4
The balls used at The Championships used be white. Given that colour TV broadcast was introduced in the 1960s, when were the balls changed to yellow to make for easy spotting against the white court lines?

QUESTION 5
Another Wimbledon tradition is that the competitors sport a pre-dominantly white apparel. Why was the rule introduced in the first place?

QUESTION 6
In 2025, 'Live electronic line calling' will be used at Wimbledon to make the 'out' and 'fault' calls, thus replacing human line judges. Name the first electronic line judging aid introduced in 1980.

QUESTION 7
Though it started in 1877, it will be the 138th edition this year and not 149th. Why?

Visual question:
Whose statues are these and why are they in The Championships' record books?

GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the June 27 edition of the daily quiz: 1. Name the war the Russian Empire was fighting at the time the crew of the Potemkin mutinied. **Ans: Russo-Japanese War**
2. Name the leader of the Bolshevik Party who said the Potemkin mutiny was a "dress rehearsal" for the October Revolution. **Ans: Vladimir Lenin**
3. Following the mutiny, the crew of the Potemkin appealed to this country for asylum. **Ans: Romania**
4. On October 12, 1905, a little more than three months after the mutiny, the Potemkin was renamed _____. **Ans: Panteleimon**
5. Potemkin was classified as a pre-_____ battleship. **Ans: Dreadnought**
Visual: Name this celebrated Soviet filmmaker. **Ans: Sergei Eisenstein**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| James Stanly. J| Pranab Biswas| Ahilya| Malik Sarfaraz

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

You need to rein in your temper!

His endeavours to become a politician are rather famous in his home town

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of 'play lights out tennis'? (Sreekala Reddy)

In everyday contexts, the expression 'lights out' is mostly used to mean 'to switch the lights off'. In army barracks, newly enlisted soldiers are expected to be in bed at a specific time. 'Lights out at 10' means that all lights will be switched off at that time. The expression 'play lights out' is mostly used in the context of sports. When you say that Alcaraz played lights out tennis, what you mean is that he played exceptional tennis. His performance was so dominant, that his opponent's paled in comparison – the match was rather one sided. When one player plays 'lights out' tennis, the other is left floundering in the dark. The expression can be used with any sport.

Bumrah's lights out bowling performance in the second Test helped India win the match against England.

What is the difference between 'reign in' and 'rein in'? (Rajinder Singh)

'Reign' and 'rein' are pronounced like the word 'rain'. 'Rein' can be used both as a noun and a verb. When used as a noun, it refers to the long leather strap put around the mouth of a horse which the rider uses to control the animal – its direction, speed, etc. When you 'rein in an animal' what you are doing is pulling the reins in order to slow the animal down or change the direction in which it is moving.

Being a novice, Chandru didn't know how to rein in the horse.

The expression 'rein in' can be used in other contexts as well. For example, when you rein in your emotions, what you are trying to do is to keep your emotions under check – you are attempting to keep them under control. Similarly, when you 'rein in' an individual, you are attempting to control someone who is perhaps behaving badly.

The Government is attempting to rein in inflation.

'Reign', like the word 'rein' can be used both as a noun and a verb. When you talk about a King's 'reign', what you are talking about is the number of years he ruled. The word can be used in other contexts as well.

His reign as CEO was rife with scandals.

The expression 'reign in' does not exist; it is always 'rein in'.

How is the word 'endeavour' pronounced? (Gowtham Sankar)

This rather formal word consists of three syllables. The first 'en' is pronounced like the word 'in', while the next two syllables rhyme with the word 'never'. The word is pronounced 'in-DEV-e' with the stress on the second syllable. It comes from the Middle English 'endeveren' meaning to 'exert oneself' in order to fulfil one's duty. Nowadays, the word is mostly used to mean to put in your best effort while attempting to do something.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Spectral:

of or relating to a spectrum; resembling or characteristic of a phantom

Synonyms: apparitional, ghostly, spiritual

Usage: *She swears she saw spectral figures in the mist.*

Pronunciation: *newsth.live/spectralpro*

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈspɛktɹəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

For a just future

Human rights education is not a narrow path but an expansive, interdisciplinary field for those who want to make change that matters.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Pavithra M.B.

When most people think of human rights, they envision courtrooms, treaties, and lawyers in crisp suits. But look closer, and you'll find activists, caregivers, economists, teachers, and even coders ... all shaping what it means to live with dignity today. In an era marked by AI-driven surveillance, digital privacy concerns, and global conflicts, the necessity of human rights education has become undeniable. One of the greatest strengths of human rights education lies in its ability to connect across disciplines. In science and technology, it addresses issues like AI surveillance, data privacy, and environmental justice and prepares students to design systems that uphold dignity and fairness. In medicine, it is connected with ethical care, reproductive rights, mental health, and access to treatment. In business and commerce, it guides people on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), labour rights, inclusive growth, and ethical leadership. Humanities and Social Sciences explore the roots of inequality, gender dynamics, and conflict through a rights-based lens. Arts and media use storytelling and visual expression to shape public discourse and policy. Each field offers a unique entry point, and together, they enrich our understanding of rights. The future lies in collaboration, not silos.

Courses

Human rights education today is offered by institutions worldwide – from short-term certificates to full-fledged degree programmes. Globally, universities like Oxford, Harvard, and LSE offer interdisciplinary programmes, while the EMA in Venice brings together scholars from over 40 institutions. In the Global South, universities in South Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia emphasise postcolonial and indigenous rights perspectives.

In India, JNU, Delhi University, TISS, and IIHR offer specialised postgraduate and diploma courses. In Tamil Nadu, the University of Madras, Annamalai University, Bharathidasan University, IGNOU, TNOU and Dr. Ambedkar Law University offer Certificate courses, Diploma, PG Diploma, UG and PG courses in Human Rights through distance education. Research degrees in interdisciplinary streams are also available. Globally, institutions like Open Society Foundations, Fulbright, DAAD (Germany), and Erasmus Mundus (EU) offer graduate and postgraduate fellowships focused on rights, peace, and justice. Universities such as Harvard, Columbia, Essex, and Geneva provide institutional grants and postdoctoral opportunities, while organisations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) offer research collaborations and stipends. In India, support is expanding through the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), ICSSR, and UGC. National and State commissions, BPRD, and legal institutions also regularly call for research proposals. Many universities internally fund projects on justice, digital rights, caste, and LGBTQ+ issues. A growing trend is cross-disciplinary funding, where proposals in tech, education, or disaster response must include a rights-based lens. Think tanks, NGOs, media, and CSR foundations also offer paid research roles, which are vital stepping stones for young scholars.

Choosing human rights education today is both hopeful and strategic. It's not just about activism; it's a gateway to diverse, meaningful careers. It's not a narrow path; it's an expansive, interdisciplinary field for those who want to make change that matters. After all, the world doesn't need more techies or investment bankers quoting Gandhi, Ambedkar or Abdul Kalam. It needs professionals who can actually *be* them.

The writer is Associate Professor, PG Department of Human Rights and Duties Education, Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai.

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Speculation on change in State leadership surfaces yet again

While Ramanagara MLA Iqbal Hussain predicts D.K. Shivakumar may become Chief Minister in the next two to three months, Social Welfare Minister Mahadevappa says Siddaramaiah will complete his full term

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The internal bickering in the Congress seems to be only increasing. The party, which is still smarting from the embarrassment caused by its legislators who spoke of a lack of development and alleged corruption in the Housing Department, found itself in the spotlight again as Ramanagara legislator H.A. Iqbal Hussain on Sunday reignited the issue of change of guard in the government.

While Mr. Hussain, a close aide of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, indicated that Mr. Shivakumar could get the chance at becoming the Chief Minister in the next two to three months, Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, seen in the Chief Minister's inner circle, clarified that there was no confusion on the Chief Minister's position and that Mr. Siddaramaiah would complete the full term.

H.C. Mahadevappa

Iqbal Hussain

"I do not believe in rumours. We are confident that Mr. Shivakumar will get the opportunity (to become the Chief Minister)," Mr. Hussain told reporters in Ramanagara. When asked if Mr. Shivakumar would become the Chief Minister this year, he said: "I am saying that the date given for a revolutionary political change (in September, by Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna) is the same. A decision would be arrived at in the next two to three months."

When his attention was drawn to Mr. Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra, a MLC, claiming that the change of leadership was only a speculation, the Ramanagara legislator said an agreement had been reached when the Chief Minister was chosen in 2023. "Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Mallikarjun Kharge decided on it (Chief Minister's post). Everyone knows about it (rotation of tenure). We were all there in Delhi. At an appropriate time, the high command will take appropriate decision. We will have to wait and I am confident that he (Mr. Shivakumar) will be given the opportunity."

Rajanna's remark

Mr. Hussain's comment is being seen as response to Mr. Rajanna's statement on a revolutionary political change in September – possibly hinting at change of KPCC president – last week, and his remarks are being viewed as hitting back at the CM's camp.

In Mysuru, Dr. Mahadevappa claimed that there was no confusion over the post of the Chief Minister, and that Mr. Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the Dasara festival in September. He said Mr. Siddaramaiah will continue as Chief Minister and the party will complete its full term. On Mr. Hussain's claim of an agreement to make Mr. Shivakumar as the Chief Minister in the coming months, Dr. Mahadevappa said he had no information about such an agreement and said the reports about such an agreement could only be speculative.

On the remarks of a possible revolution in three months, he said the MLAs themselves should be asked about their perception of revolution. "Some legislators keep making statements as per their convenience. Revolutions will always be taking place to protect democracy and the Constitution," he said.

BJP foresees mid-term polls, change of govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Adding to the speculation on leadership change in the Congress government, the Opposition BJP on Sunday not only maintained that the leadership change was imminent, but also predicted mid-term polls.

"The Congress Ministers have spoken about a swift revolution (indicating a change of guard in the Congress). A change of Chief Minister is imminent," said Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok.

Speaking to presspersons in Bengaluru, he referred to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's earlier remarks that his horoscope is such that opportunity would not come to him just like that and he had to seize it by force. "Mr. Shivakumar's horoscope is not favourable for natural transfer of power. He has to seize power by force. He doesn't have natural luck," Mr. Ashok said.

R. Ashok

Responding to Mr. Ashok's prediction, Mr. Shivakumar said: "When did Mr. Ashok become an astrologer? If he has become one, do get me an appointment as I would like to consult him."

Meanwhile, BJP leader and former Minister B. Sriramulu maintained in Bagalkot on Sunday that the Siddaramaiah-led government may fall anytime and that there would be mid-term polls in Karnataka before Dasara.

"I am not saying this for political reasons. It is evident from the statements of Congress leaders who are talking about a change of leadership," he said.

> There will be mid-term polls in Karnataka soon and the BJP will form a government with 150 seats
>
> **GOVIND KARJOL,** BJP leader

"There is one group of people who are saying there will be transfer of power. Some others are denying it. In this confusion, the government will surely fall and we will have to face another Assembly election. I think this will happen before Dasara," he said, adding, "A new CM will inaugurate Mysuru Dasara."

Meanwhile, veteran BJP leader Govind Karjol told presspersons in Challakere that mid-term elections may be held any time after December. "There will be mid-term polls in Karnataka soon and the BJP will form a government with 150 seats," he said.

Sight to behold

The Ghataprabha is in full flow at Gokak Falls in Belagavi district following heavy rains in the catchment area. P.K. BADIGER

Devanahalli farmers to hold convention on July 4

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Devanahalli farmers who are on an indefinite strike demanding withdrawal of land acquisition for a proposed aerospace park in Devanahalli, have announced that they will hold a State-level 'Save Land' convention in Bengaluru on July 4 to bring pressure on the government to heed their demands.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Sunday, farmer leaders urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is set to hold consultations with them on July 4 to take a positive decision with respect to their demands.

"If the government takes a decision that brings relief on July 4, we will congratulate Mr. Siddaramaiah and his government and leave. If justice is denied once again, we will take a bold decision for an even tougher struggle on that day," the leaders said, while pointing out that national-level farmer leaders will take part in the proposed convention.

Members of the Samyukta Horata Karnataka staging a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha president Badagalapura Nagendra demanded that the Devanahalli land issue should be a special agenda at the special meeting of the State Cabinet at Nandi Hills on July 2. "We are appealing to the Cabinet Ministers not to return empty-handed after going to Nandi Hills via Devanahalli," he said.

"All Ministers in the Cabinet, including Mr. Siddaramaiah, are aware of the importance of social movements. If the government's decision goes against farmers, this movement will intensify further," he said.

It may be noted that the farmers have been staging a protest in Devanahalli for the last 1,180 days seeking dropping of acquisition of 1,777 acres in 13 villages of Devanahalli taluk. Broadbasing their struggle with the support of Samyukta Horata Karnataka, the farmers have not only upped the ante against the government, but also launched an indefinite struggle at Freedom Park in Bengaluru from June 27.

The farmer leaders said that they were appealing to all activists in the State to meet the MLAs and Ministers in their districts.

Congress gets new social media head

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aishwarya Mahadev has been made chairperson of the social media department of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. A release in this regard was issued by AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal. She is the daughter of Congress leader Manchenahalli Mahadev.

Government will reply to HC notice on Cauvery Aarti: Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said the State government will reply to a notice issued by the High Court on Cauvery Aarti.

Speaking to reporters here, he said: "No one objects to offering puja. Certain sections have some concerns. The government will address them. No one is seeking permission to offer puja, it is a practice that has been going on every day."

Asked if AICC general secretary Randeep Surjewala would meet MLAs individually during his visit to Bengaluru, he said: "Yes, he will meet MLAs personally. He has already informed them about it. I will also send out messages to the MLAs regarding this."

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Only CM will do, insists MLA

Tumakuru Rural MLA Suresh Gowda (BJP) recently snubbed Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar by ruling out attending a meeting chaired by the latter to resolve the issues related to the Hemavati Express Link Canal Project in Tumakuru district. Mr. Shivakumar, who also holds the Major and Medium Irrigation portfolio, had launched the project. The MLA insisted that representatives of farmers and MLAs would attend the meeting only if Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chaired it. The Chief Minister is also the Chairman of the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. Eventually, Home Minister G. Parameshwara promised to convene a meeting with Mr. Siddaramaiah.

The Opposition BJP and JD(S) have accused the ruling Congress of trying to divert the Hemavati waters to taluks of Bengaluru South district (formerly Ramanagara). Mr. Gowda said the farmers of the district wanted research conducted by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, or the Indian Institute of Technology to study the availability of water in canals. Farmers, accompanied by Opposition leaders, staged a major protest opposing the link canal on May 30.

Walk the talk, says Police Commissioner

Mangaluru Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy (*in picture*),

during a recent press conference on the ongoing investigation into mob lynching, candidly questioned the mediapersons' silence over hate speech made on public platforms.

"Why are you not questioning speakers about their hate speech? The way I am sitting before you to answer your queries, they too need to sit and answer your queries," Mr. Reddy said. When the reporter replied that they have been reporting such speeches, while describing them as "controversial", Mr. Reddy continued, "But you need to question him/her as to why he/she is making such a speech. You are wise and knowledgeable people. If you question, then there will not be any such speeches. Everybody has a role to play in preventing hate speech." This byte of Mr. Reddy got widely circulated on the social media.

Minister's silence over mango crisis

This has been a tumultuous year for mango farmers, with the yield, quality, and prices of the fruit all dropping owing to disease and weather vagaries. Farmers from Kolar, Bengaluru South, and Bengaluru Rural districts are facing distress. While the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister took measures – the former writing to her counterpart in Andhra Pradesh to lift the ban on Karnataka's Totapuri mangoes entering that State and the latter requesting the Central government for the support price – the farmers have expressed their disappointment over Horticulture Minister S.S. Mallikarjun.

The Minister neither said much in public about the crisis the farmers are going through, nor did he meet the protesting growers, leading to outrage among them. The farmers are also upset with the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation, known as the mango board, for not taking a better hands-on approach to help the farmers. Interestingly, officials of the mango board have pointed out from time to time that they neither get enough staff nor funds to work better.

Nagesh Prabhu
Raghava M.
Jahnavi T.R.

Complaint filed against Hosabale

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking strong exception to RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale's comment seeking amendment to the Preamble of the Constitution to remove the words "socialist" and "secular", the Karnataka unit of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) legal cell has filed a complaint with the Seshadripuram police seeking legal action.

The complainant, Sridhara M.M., president, IYC-Karnataka's legal cell, said that Mr. Hosabale's comment was an "attack on the constitutional ethos" and "incitement against the nation's founding values".

He said: "They are deliberate, provocative and dangerous. Such remarks must not be taken lightly. They are not protected political speech, but rather an incitement to constitutional subversion, and fall within the purview of cognizable crime offences."

The IYC complaint demanded legal action, accusing him of making "unconstitutional, inflammatory, and divisive" comments.

The police have acknowledged receipt of the complaint and said the matter is under legal review. A similar complaint was filed on Saturday by a member of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee at the High Grounds police station, against Mr. Hosabale.

Meanwhile, the BJP rushed to the defence of Mr. Hosabale. "The Congress, which amended the Constitution 68 times, is talking about the word secular. But there is no word secular in the Constitution of B.R. Ambedkar," maintained Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, he said Mr. Hosabale had spoken about the words added by the Congress.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SADAKSHI** Ekka, d/o: Vinod Kumar, r/o: B–405 Interlaken By UKN, 4 AQSA Motors, Bengaluru – 560037. Have Changed My Name To Seerat. Affidavit Date On 26/06/2025.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VARADARAJ HIREMAGALUR RANGARAJ**, S/o. H R Rangaraj, Aged about 43 years, resident of No.10/G7, 4th Main, 8th Cross, Bairaveshwarana Nagar, Nagarbhavi Main Road, Near BBMP Office, Bengaluru North, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072, have changed my name from **VARADARAJ HIREMAGALUR RANGARAJ** to **VARADARAJ**, vide affidavit dated 27/06/2025 sworn before notary **H.G PADMANABHA RAO**, Reg. No.12464, Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE PRL. XXth ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU
P & SC No. 251/2025 (CCH-32)
Between : 1. Smt. Ramya .P, W/o Palani Velu M, D/o Late. K A Ramu, Aged about 36 years, R/at #5, South Cross, Anepalya, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru - 560 047.
2. Sri. R. Manikandan, S/o Late. K.A. Ramu, Aged about 35 years, r/at #80, 4th Cross, Sadashiva Temple Road, Ramaswamy Palya, Kammanahalli Main Road, Maruthi Sevanagar, Bengaluru-560 033.
3. Smt. Mohana Priya .E, W/o Elangovan, D/o Late. K.A. Ramu, R/at # 168, 2nd Main, Opp. NGV, LR Nagar, Koramangala, Viveknagar, Bengaluru - 560 047.
4. Smt. Rani M, W/o Murali Krishnan, D/o Late. K.A. Ramu, Aged about 31 years, R/at No.212, New Colony, Tamil Nadu-632503.
5. Smt. Ambika S, W/o B Santhosh, D/o Late. K.A. Ramu, Aged about 28 years, R/at 39, 4th Cross, Sadhashiva Temple Road, Ramaswamy Palya, Kammanahalli Main Road, Bengaluru -560 033. **...Petitioners**
And : Nil ...Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the above named petitioner have filed a petition under section 372 of Indian Succession Act, praying for grant of Successions Certificate in respect of EPF amount of Rs.8,20,549 in EPF account No. 2165/501, of late K.A. Ramu, who is none other than father of the petitioner, in favour of the petitioner, who died on 21-02-2023, which are morefully described in the schedule of the petition.
Any person having their objection/s for issue of Succession Certificate in respect of the arrears amount in favour of the Petitioner and any person having interest may cause the same by appearing before the court in person or through their Advocate **on this 15th day of July 2025 at 11.00 AM** failing which the matter will be heard and disposed off in accordance with law.
SCHEDULE
EPF Amount of Rs. 8,20,549/- in EPF Account No.2165/501, of Late K.A. Ramu.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Hon'ble Court on 2.6.2025.
By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Petitioners
Sri. Rajesh M.D. & **Sri. Shashikumar**
Having office at No.23, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, 4th Main, Behind Vivekananada Law College, Maruthi Extension, Gayathri Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 021.
Mob. : 9535415152
Mail: rajeshmdrajeshmd@gmail.com

Kerala govt. firm on Zumba in schools, seeks an end to row

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Minister V. Sivankutty watches students perform Zumba in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. PTI

The Kerala government dug in its heels on Sunday regarding its decision to introduce Zumba sessions in government schools, despite criticism from certain Muslim social organisations and clerics who argued that the aerobic fitness dance format was patently against Islamic precepts.

However, the administration cautioned society against allowing the controversy to escalate into an alienating culture war. Several Muslim organisations sought to moderate the controversy in larger civic interest.

For one, the Samastha Kerala Jem-iyyathul Ulama (EK faction) leader Nasar Faisi Kudathai welcomed General Education Minister V. Sivankutty's statement. Kerala Nadvathul Mujahideen (KNM) State president T.P. Abdulla Koya Madani urged clerics to refrain from making divisive statements.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sivankutty announced the government's commitment to introduce Zumba in schools. He stood by in solidarity as Zumba fans turned out in strength in front of the Secretariat here to showcase the exercise format. Instructors guided the adults and children, including families, as they gyrated to the upbeat music.

How the dispute began

The dispute erupted after the Wisdom Islamic Organisation and the Sunni Yuvajana Sangham (SYS), including some ultra-conservative Islamist clerics, opposed the government's move.

Some clerics equated Zumba to "lewd and scantily clad DJ party dancing" on social media.

They ruled that the exercise format violated the lifestyle regulations codified in Islamic law and undermined family and religious values.

The Muslim Students Federation requested the government to provide evidence that Zumba could prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

The Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam, a prominent social organisation for Hindu Backward Classes, backed the government's move. SNDP Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan told reporters in Alappuzha: "Those opposing Zumba should step back. If someone says there is an attempt to turn Kerala into a religious State, they would not be entirely wrong."

13 shutters of Mullaperiyar dam opened as water rises

The shutters were raised after the water level rose to 136.25 ft at 7 a.m. on Sunday; Tamil Nadu postponed opening of shutters until morning on a request from the Idukki district administration

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

Tamil Nadu opened the 13 spillway shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam at 11.35 a.m. on Sunday after the water level reached the rule level of 136 ft on Saturday night.

The shutters were raised by 10 cm after the water level rose to 136.25 ft. at 7 a.m. on Sunday. At 4 p.m., the shutters were raised by 30 cm. Officials said the targeted water release from the reservoir was 250 cusecs.

The Tamil Nadu Public Works Department had earlier announced that it would open the shutters of the dam on Saturday when the water level reaches 136 ft.

Residents watch the flow in the Periyar at Vallakkadavu after the opening of the Mullaperiyar dam on Sunday. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

Though the water touched that level on Saturday night, Tamil Nadu postponed the opening of the shutters until Sunday following a request from the Idukki district administration.

As per the rule curve, Tamil Nadu can store 136 ft of water in the dam until June 30. The rule curve until July 10 is fixed at 136.3 ft.

People warned

District Collector V. Vigneshwari said that those living near the banks of the Periyar should take precautionary measures, as there would be an increase in water flow.

The district administration had earlier prepared a list of 3,220 people from the downstream area of the Mullaperiyar dam to be shifted to relief camps.

Shaji Kurishumood, a resident of Vallakkadavu, said the water level in the Periyar was very low, and hence there was no need to panic. "When water was released into the Periyar river, the water level in the river did not rise much," he said.

The water level at the Idukki dam rose and approached the blue alert level on Sunday.

The water level of the reservoir reached 2,363.1 ft (57.29%) at 4 p.m. on Sunday as against 2,338.12 ft (36.07%) on the same day last year.

Railway police open fire, thwart train robbery bid in Palnadu district of A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Robbers tried to make away with valuables from passengers on the Bhubaneswar-Secunderabad Visakha Express train at Tummalapalem village near Piduguralla in Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh around 3 a.m. on Sunday, but personnel of the Government Railway Police (GRP) foiled their plan by opening fire at them.

The police and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) have launched a hunt for the robbers, who fled to nearby villages.

RPF Assistant Security Commissioner B. Sailesh Kumar, who visited the spot, said that when the train reached Tummalapalem, two robbers tried to stop it by pulling the chain in the S1 coach.

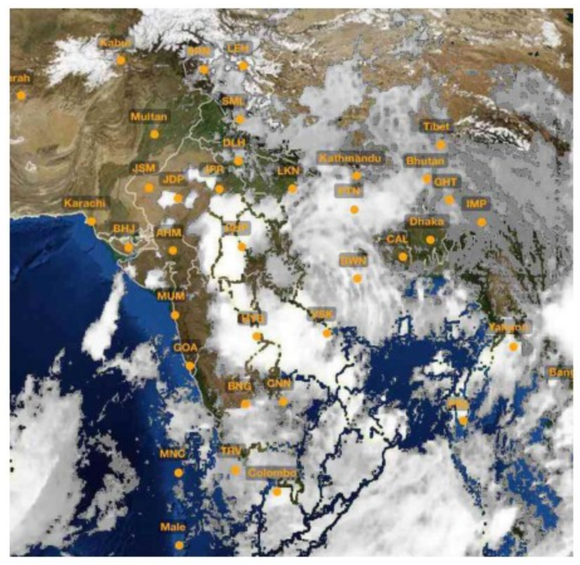
On noticing a robber, sub-inspector, A. Venkatadri opened fire and chased them. "Other members of the gang who were waiting near the tracks threw stones. When a constable, too, opened fire along with the SI, the thieves fled," Deputy Superintendent of Railway Police, Guntur, Akkeswara Rao said.

"After the robbery attempt, the train was stopped for 17 minutes at Tummalapalem. Efforts are on apprehend the robbers. The police fired nine rounds at the gang," Mr. Sailesh Kumar told *The Hindu*.

"This is the second robbery attempt in the Pidiguralla-Nadikudi area in just five days. Robbers attempted to target passengers in the S4 coach on the Visakha-Charlapalli special train two days ago by pulling the chain," the Assistant Security Commissioner said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal and Sikkim.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.0	25.8	Kozhikode	10.0	28.5	24.4
Ahmedabad	18.0	31.3	25.5	Kurnool	—	35.0	26.0
Aizawl	—	33.7	22.2	Lucknow	0.8	38.9	27.0
Allahabad	7.0	30.0	25.4	Madurai	—	40.2	27.6
Bengaluru	—	29.2	21.0	Mangaluru	42.7	29.8	23.2
Bhopal	—	25.2	23.2	Mumbai	6.0	31.4	23.6
Bhubaneswar	25.7	28.6	23.4	Mysuru	2.0	28.8	20.0
Chandigarh	119	33.9	23.6	New Delhi	—	36.2	26.8
Chennai	5.0	37.7	27.5	Patna	—	36.3	28.5
Coimbatore	—	32.0	22.0	Port Blair	116.0	27.8	23.2
Dehradun	71.0	29.2	22.2	Puducherry	—	37.4	24.1
Gangtok	5.0	23.4	19.0	Pune	3.0	29.5	20.9
Goa	14.0	32.0	25.9	Raipur	5.0	30.0	23.5
Guwahati	—	35.6	27.5	Ranchi	11.0	29.7	23.1
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	—	25.8	18.2
Hyderabad	—	34.6	24.1	Shimla	91.0	23.4	16.6
Imphal	21.0	32.3	22.2	Srinagar	—	32.3	22.0
Jaipur	—	33.6	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	16.0	32.2	22.0
Kochi	13.0	28.0	23.0	Tiruchi	—	39.1	27.4
Kohima	4.0	24.0	19.8	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	19.0	28.6	25.7	Visakhapatnam	1.0	32.0	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	1	6	.70	23	23	
Bengaluru	.10	2	.14	36	110	
Chennai	.18	.10	.32	25	44	
Delhi	.14	.32	154	56	60	
Hyderabad	5	9	.96	91	94	
Kolkata	3	.25	.20	52	51	
Lucknow	5	.40	.26	34	85	
Mumbai	6	.34	1	18	52	
Pune	.11	.24	.34	61	63	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.82	.32	58	109	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 208 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizwal, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 9.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Tamil Nadu government urges Centre to release Keeladi excavation report

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Glimpse of the past: Liverpool John Moores University in the U.K. studied the skulls excavated from Keeladi and reconstructed the facial features of the ancient people. FILE PHOTO

In the light of fresh research findings by a university in the United Kingdom (U.K.) on the Keeladi archaeological site, the Tamil Nadu government, on Sunday said the study highlighted the antiquity of the Tamil culture.

It urged the Union government to release the report of the archaeological excavations conducted in Keeladi by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

State Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu (who also holds the archaeology portfolio) said he was filled with great pride and happiness over the research conducted by Liverpool John Moores University in the U.K. It studied the skulls excavated from Keeladi and reconstructed the facial features of the people who lived around 2,500 years ago, "once again highlighting the antiquity of Tamil culture and civilization to the world," the Minister said.

Mr. Thennarasu said, "Though the BJP-led government at the Centre has deceitfully tried to suppress the history and heritage of Tamils, constructive scientific findings and the historical evidence emerging from the Keeladi excavations continue to defeat the Union government's unjust and unfair denials. I urge the Union government to at least now release the Keeladi research report."

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin took to social media to say: "The way of life detailed in Sangam literature now stands scientifically validated through the findings at Keeladi."

'Turmeric Board will boost farmer income with new markets opening'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Fulfilling a 40-year-old dream and the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the headquarters of the National Turmeric Board in Nizamabad on Sunday.

Mr. Shah said that with the establishment of the Board, within three to four years, turmeric from Nizamabad will reach most countries around the world. Farmers will no longer have to rely on middlemen as the Board will establish the entire value chain – packaging, branding, marketing and export.

The Minister said turmeric is antiviral, anti-cancer, and anti-inflammatory,

Amit Shah at a turmeric stall during the inauguration of the National Turmeric Board Headquarters. MOHAMMED ALEEMUDDIN

and is a wonder drug. Moreover, the Indian turmeric with high curcumin content is much sought after. "Now, we've also begun GI tag certification and marketing for organic turmeric. Government of India has set a target of $1 billion in turmeric exports by 2030." He further said farmers will also be trained in best practices to meet export standards and the Board will work on skill development and training. He said in 2025, turmeric farmers received a rate of ₹18,000 to ₹19,000 per quintal. In the next three years, marketing initiatives will help farmers earn ₹6,000 to ₹7,000 more per quintal.

Mr. Shah said that along with the Turmeric Board, branch offices of Bharat Organic Cooperative Ltd. and Bharat Cooperative Exports Ltd. will be opened in Nizamabad to boost turmeric exports.

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao thanked the Centre for responding to the long-pending demand of farmers.

Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar, K. Laxman and D. Arvind, MPs, and several other party leaders were present.

Kerala to seek sterilisation of bonnet macaque near forests

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Bonnet macaques have been blamed for crop lose. FILE PHOTO

Kerala is likely to undertake mass sterilisation of the bonnet macaque as part of measures to control the population of the widely seen primate species.

The Kerala Forest Department will shortly approach the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change seeking permission to carry out sterilisation of the species endemic to South India.

Farmers and people living in forest fringes have complained about crop loss caused by the troops of monkeys. The animals, according to farmers, damage a wide variety of crops, including coconuts and other agricultural produce.

The bonnet macaque is the second species for which population-control measures are being proposed in the State after wild pigs. Though wild pigs are being culled, there are no plans to cull monkeys.

The Forest Department had drawn up a "Mission Bonnet macaque" as part of a 10-point programme to reduce instances of human-wildlife conflicts. The sterilisation programme, along with other initiatives, is part of the mission, said Pramod G. Krishnan, Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW), Kerala.

The proposal is to sterilise the troops and release them back into their territories after monitoring their health. The project requires the permission of the Union Ministry since the species is included in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.

PM hails Kalaburagi's jowar rotti initiative

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his monthly radio address Mann Ki Baat aired on Sunday praised the Kalaburagi district administration for its innovative initiative to empower rural women by bringing women roti producers onto a common cooperative platform and selling the rotis under the Kalaburagi Rotti brand, a jowar-based flatbread, turning a local staple into a recognised regional brand.

"The achievements of Kalaburagi's women in Karnataka are equally remarkable. They have transformed jowar roti into a well-known brand. Over 3,000 rotis are being made every day at their cooperative. The aroma of these rotis is no longer limited to their village. A special counter is already opened in Bengaluru. Orders are coming in through online food platforms. Kalaburagi's roti is now making its way into the kitchens in big cities. This initiative has had a tremendous impact on these women. Their income has increased significantly," Mr. Modi said.

Kalaburagi Rotti

> The achievements of Kalaburagi's women in Karnataka are equally remarkable. They have transformed jowar roti into a well-known brand
>
> **NARENDRA MODI,** Prime Minister

Meanwhile, responding to the Prime Minister's praise, Minister Priyank Kharge, who hails from Kalaburagi, expressed delight, but emphasised the role of the State government behind the success of the initiative. Writing on X, Mr. Kharge said, "What the Prime Minister described in Mann Ki Baat is actually the result of our Kaam Ki Baat, a testament to the efforts of the Congress government."

Meanwhile, speaking to *The Hindu*, Deputy Commissioner Fouzia Taranum, the key official behind the initiative, credited the success to the over 1,000 women who are at the heart of the project.

"The women have done an outstanding job. Their dedication and commitment are truly commendable. The real credit belongs to them. We are now planning to open franchise outlets in Hyderabad, Bidar, Pune, Delhi and other cities. I am hopeful that these plans will materialise soon," she said.

Pawan Kalyan greets Kamal over selection to Oscar panel

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan has said in a message on X that the selection of actor Kamal Haasan as a member of the Academy Awards 2025 committee was a moment of immense pride to the Indian film industry.

He said Kamal Haasan had a phenomenal acting career spanning six decades. "Kamal Haasan's exceptional command over every aspect of filmmaking as a writer, singer, director, producer, and actor is truly inspiring," he added.

Language of unity

Uniformity should not be confused with national unity in language policy

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 mandates that all students across the country must learn three languages in school. Theoretically, NEP 2020 is more flexible than the previous versions of the three-language policy in India, which have always faced resistance not just in south India but also different States. Hindi is only one of the many Indian languages, and States are free to choose any two Indian languages and one foreign language in the mix of three, according to NEP 2020. However, the fear that Hindi will become the default option as the second Indian language apart from the native language is aggravated by Maharashtra government's attempts to prioritise Hindi over other regional languages and its continuing vacillation on the issue. The State has now withdrawn its decision that Hindi will 'generally' be taught until Class five, as the second Indian language, after it kicked off a political storm in the State and put the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the back foot. A committee headed by Dr. Narendra Jadhav will now deliberate with all stakeholders on the relevance of the three-language policy. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has said the government would accept its recommendation. This change of heart comes after estranged cousins Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray, legatees of a strident version of Marathi pride that often turned into violent xenophobia, came together to oppose what they see as "imposition" of Hindi. Evidently, the language issue is uniting political rivals against the BJP.

Languages associated with power gain more influence but attempts to force languages on people on the back of political power can be divisive. The paradox is that the BJP sees the three language policy as a question of national pride and unity. It is clear that most students, including those in India's Hindi-speaking regions, want to learn English. According to Maharashtra Minister Ashish Shelar, nearly a fifth of students in the State are learning a third language and the new policy would give that option to all students. There are 15 languages including Hindi available in schools under the third language option, and when at least 20 students demand a language in a school, it will be taught. While this sounds noble and politically neutral, the actual implementation is different. Hardly anyone in Bihar has learnt Tamil or Malayalam or Kannada or Telugu under the three language policy so far. The chances of an overwhelming majority of students ending up with Hindi as part of the three-language policy is high. No State or school can offer a vast range of languages. The BJP must reassess its language policy taking into account the responses that are emerging from different parts of the country. It must learn the language of unity.

Whites on greens

Wimbledon might be Djokovic's best chance for a 25th Slam

Tennis loves its traditions, and The Championships at Wimbledon more so. In the recent past though, the sport's most prestigious Major has progressively cut out many of its famed anachronisms. The bespoke grass-court seeding formula, the Middle Sunday holiday and best-of-five set doubles matches have all been done away with. Now, for the first time in the 148-year history of the tournament, there will be no line judges, and electronic calling will take effect on all courts. Yet, when the first ball is struck on Monday, there will be no dearth of the verdant pomp and splendour. If anything, a less clustered court, with its glazed green grass, may lead to a better visual experience, and give the best players, clothed in pristine white, a broader canvas to work their magic on. Chief among them will be Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz, the world's top two men who have now established an engaging rivalry reminiscent of the Roger Federer-Rafael Nadal duels. Alcaraz, in fact, is the two-time defending champion at SW19 and has won four of his last five tournaments, including the Queen's Club Championships. World No. 1 Sinner does not have similar grass pedigree, but his first-ever Slam semifinal was at the All England Club in 2023, and he won the only meeting with Alcaraz on grass, at Wimbledon 2022.

However, 24-time Major winner and seven-time Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic is not to be discounted. The 38-year-old Serb is not in Slam-winning shape but grass presents the best chance. He finished runner-up in 2024 just weeks after a knee operation and the last time he exited Wimbledon before the final was in 2017. Among women, No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka, despite the bitter French Open final loss to Coco Gauff, remains the player to beat and there is no reason why her power-packed game cannot triumph in southwest London. But the last eight editions have seen eight different victors, pointing to an open field. For Gauff and five-time Major champion Iga Swiatek, Wimbledon has been the least rewarding Slam and they will be hoping to crack the code. American Gauff has not gone past the fourth round while Swiatek's best showing is quarterfinals. Defending champion Barbora Krejcikova, 2024 runner-up Jasmine Paolini and 2022 winner Elena Rybakina are among the other notable names. The Indian presence will again be limited to doubles with Rohan Bopanna, Yuki Bhambri, Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli competing. As the country's tennis remains stuck in a vicious cycle of a shrinking talent pool, administrative apathy and endless litigation, it will be up to these players to keep the flag flying.

A year later — colonial-era laws to new criminal codes

R.K. Vij

is a former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer

It will be a year since the three criminal laws which replaced the British-era enacted laws came into effect. Last year, the central government replaced the Indian Penal Code with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) with the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 with the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA). Policemen are gradually getting used to the new provisions. As most first information reports (FIRs) are registered through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), which is one of the pillars of the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), a smooth transition from the previous provisions of the laws to the new ones has been essential for the implementation of the new laws at the police station level. FIRs registered at zero are being routed to the police station of their jurisdiction through the CCTNS, albeit only within a State. The credit for this milestone goes to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

A significant development in policing has been the implementation of the 'e-Sakshya', which is a mobile application to collect and preserve evidence in real time. This app has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in consultation with the MHA. The NIC is also the nodal agency for the implementation of the ICJS, which connects police (through the CCTNS) with the other pillars, namely, forensic science laboratories (FSLs), prosecution, jails and courts. While the transition to the new provisions of law is a mechanical exercise, it is the 'e-Sakshya' which is making a big difference on the ground. Feedback from the investigating officers (IOs) who are at the helm in implementing the new laws is important.

Mandatory recording of pictures and videos

The BNSS makes it mandatory for the IO to record certain processes using audio-video electronic means. Under some provisions, the use of such electronic means is optional. The 'e-Sakshya' app caters to six provisions of the law which include the recording of search and seizure through audio-video electronic means (a new provision under Section 105 of the BNSS), search by a police officer (under Section 185 of the BNSS), videography of the scene of crime (under Section 176 of the BNSS), recording of a statement (under Section 173 of the BNSS), recording of a statement (under Section 180 of the BNSS) and order of custody and disposal of property pending trial in some cases (under Section 497 of the BNSS).

Though the trial of the most heinous offences registered under the BNS is yet to be completed in order to review the overall impact of 'e-Sakshya' on conviction, IOs are glad to be able to use it to capture pictures and videos on the spot, with geo-coordinates and a time stamp. For the public, this has enhanced visibility of the entire process of search and seizure. IOs are hopeful that witnesses (captured in photos and videos) cannot deny their presence at the scene of crime. Further, IOs cannot even (unofficially) depute their subordinates to carry out an investigation in their name. The provision of capturing a 'selfie' by the IO has been a deterrent and is likely to improve the overall quality of an investigation.

> Technological advancements have been useful, but feedback from the investigating officers, who have a pivotal role to play, is important

Similarly, the mandatory visit of an FSL expert to the scene of crime (Section 176 of the BNSS) is proving beneficial to the police. While the forensic infrastructure has not changed much in the last year, the IO now ensures that the scene of crime is mandatorily inspected by an FSL expert. There is also the use of a police dog at the scene of crime, which is useful in tracking suspects. The move to have a Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) and National Forensic Science University (NFSU) in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, which was announced by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, is a step that will help strengthen the forensic infrastructure.

The impediments

However, more still needs to be done. While pictures and videos captured using 'e-Sakshya' are stored in the National Government Cloud (NGC) through 'Sakshya lockers', courts are yet to start directly accessing such pictures and videos through the ICJS. Many IOs make a copy through the CCTNS (which is linked to the NGC) and submit a pen drive or a similar electronic device in court, along with the final report of the case. While the integrity of evidence is not questionable in this process, the duplication of work and unnecessary expenditure incurred in the procurement of pen-drives needs to be checked. Moreover, IOs use their personal mobile phones to capture pictures and videos. Those who did have an android phone have had to buy a new mobile because the 'e-Sakshya' can only be downloaded in mobile phones with Android version 10 and a minimum storage space of 1 GB. Some police stations have been given one tablet only, which is clearly not sufficient as each police station has more than one IO.

While each video could be of a duration of four minutes (maximum), there is no limit on the number of videos that can be taken. In case of a linked FIR, there is no provision to delete a picture or video that has not been recorded well. However, if an FIR is not linked, any picture or video can be deleted and recaptured. However, a maximum of five Sakshya IDs (SIDs) could be generated in the off-line (FIR not linked) mode. In such cases, the pictures and the videos need to be uploaded whenever the IO reaches a network area in order to make space to capture additional pictures and videos with a fresh SID.

There are examples of accused persons being reluctant to be captured electronically when pointing out the spot where murder weapons have been hidden or when producing prohibited drugs. However, 'e-Sakshya' could prove to be a game-changing tool in improving investigations and ensuring convictions.

Though 'e-Sakshya' has a provision to automatically generate a hash value (using SHA256 function) and mandatory certificate (to authenticate the secondary electronic evidence), cyber-crimes which involve the seizure of electronic evidence need an expert who could offer a definite opinion and depose in a court of law. Therefore, State labs (including the one in Chhattisgarh) which are yet to be notified under the IT Act, need to get their cyber forensic laboratories soon.

While small thefts (of a value less than ₹5000) are not being registered as a cognisable offence under the ambiguous proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 303 of the BNS, petty organised offences under Section 112 of the BNS are registered (for some offences such as gambling) despite the definition being open ended and vague.

The new Section 530 of the BNSS provides for the recording of evidence and examination of witnesses (including an IO) through video conferencing, but such a practice has not yet become the norm. Similarly, while IOs seem satisfied with the implementation of the seven-day limit under Section 184 of the BNSS for forwarding the medical examination report of a rape survivor by a medical practitioner to the police, their major grievance of getting the post mortem report in time has not be resolved. The MedLEaPR (Medico Legal Examination and Post Mortem Reports System), which is a web-based application developed by the NIC Haryana is under testing in Chhattisgarh. This will enable the health department to create and forward medical examination reports and post-mortem reports more quickly to the police through CCTNS.

Need for feedback

Since all States and Union Territories are implementing the new laws, there is a need for feedback to review ease of implementation and carry out changes to minimise the practical problems that IOs face and also overcome the legal obstacles in courts. In addition, more resources need to be allocated for forensics and information and communication technologies. This will ensure that IOs do not have to use their personal gadgets for official processes and that each district has a separate mobile FSL unit.

Revisit digital search powers under the I-T Bill 2025

Mahwash Fatima

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The Finance Minister recently introduced a proposal in Parliament to allow tax authorities to access, under the Income-Tax Bill, 2025, an individual's "virtual digital space" during search and seizure operations. The justification is straightforward: as financial activity moves online, so must enforcement. However, this glosses over the far-reaching implications of such a shift, which raises significant concerns about privacy, overreach, and surveillance.

A blurring, open-ended

Currently, India's tax law already provides for search and seizure under Section 132 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961. But those powers are limited to physical space such as a house, office, and locker. Since such operations are based on suspicion of undisclosed income or assets, there is a connection between the objective, which is finding undisclosed income and getting access to physical assets.

The new Bill, however, blurs this link by including an individual's digital presence which is not only vast but often contains much more than what is relevant to a tax investigation. Without clear limits, such access can lead to disproportionate intrusion. For example, under the existing regime, what could be searched was what concerned only the individual under investigation. In contrast, digital spaces involve multiple stakeholders. Accessing a social media account also exposes friends, family, and professional contacts, through photographs and posts.

The proposed definition of 'virtual digital space' includes access to emails, personal cloud drives, social media accounts, digital application platforms, and more. Crucially, the phrase "any other space of similar nature" makes the list open-ended, potentially covering a wide range of digital platforms. Additionally, the proposed provision empowers tax authorities to override access codes to gain entry into electronic devices or virtual digital spaces. It still remains unclear though how this power will be operationalised in practice particularly in cases involving encrypted messaging apps such as WhatsApp, as explicitly cited by the Finance Minister in Parliament.

> The proposal to access an individual's 'virtual digital space' raises significant concerns about privacy, overreach, and surveillance

The problem becomes even more of a concern when the individual involved is a professional whose work requires confidentiality. For instance, journalists whose devices and emails hold sensitive information, including confidential sources, unpublished material, and protected communications. If a search is conducted on flimsy or overly broad grounds, it not only violates their privacy but also endangers their ability to undertake reporting. Recognising the risks, the Supreme Court of India, in 2023, circulated interim guidelines on the seizure of digital devices and directed the Union Government to contemplate formulating necessary protocols. Moreover, the judicial interpretation of "reason to believe" emphasises the need for tangible material beyond mere suspicion. Even under existing law, courts have construed that the provision ought to be exercised strictly, acknowledging that search and seizure is a serious invasion of privacy.

A violation of transparency, accountability

Yet, the proposed provision goes against these principles and is devoid of guardrails, judicial oversight, and has a lack of understanding of the stakes. It fails to acknowledge, let alone address, the sheer breadth and layered sensitivity of information stored on electronic devices. In line with the current law, the proposed provision prohibits disclosure of the "reason to believe" clearly violating principles of transparency and accountability.

Globally, privacy and transparency standards in search and seizure, especially where digital devices are involved, are grounded in statutory protections and procedural safeguards. In Canada, Section 8 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the right to be secure against "unreasonable search or seizure". It is designed to prevent unjustified searches and sets a three-part default standard: prior authorisation; approval by a neutral and impartial judicial authority; and reasonable and probable grounds. In the United States, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, adopted by the Internal Revenue Service, affirms that taxpayers have the right to expect that any inquiry or enforcement action will be legally compliant and will not be more intrusive than necessary following due process rights, including search and seizure protections. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Riley vs California* also necessitated a warrant before accessing digital data, given the deeply personal nature of information stored on phones and devices.

Contradiction of proportionality test

In contrast, India's proposed Income Tax provision grants sweeping access to digital personal data without warrants, relevance thresholds, or any distinction between financial and non-financial information. This directly contradicts the proportionality test upheld by the Supreme Court in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union Of India*. The Court has held that any restriction to an individual's privacy must meet a four-fold test, of which proportionality was key, requiring state action to pursue a legitimate aim, satisfy necessity and adopt the least intrusive means available. Allowing unfettered access to personal digital data, in the absence of judicial oversight or safeguards, fails this standard.

The way forward is not to abandon digital enforcement altogether. Rather, it is to root it firmly in principles of proportionality, legality, and transparency. The right to privacy cannot and must not be eroded under the garb of regulatory action. Unchecked surveillance in the name of compliance is not governance but overreach. There is hope that the Select Committee which is currently reviewing the Bill narrows the definition of 'virtual digital space', and mandates prior judicial warrants and disclosure of reasons for such access to digital content in addition to establishing mechanisms of redress for aggrieved individuals.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How safe are women?

In recent days there have been reports of sexual assault in Udaipur, Rajasthan and Delhi. The first case involved a 30-year-old French tourist in India. The second case, in East Delhi, involved a woman being molested by a patient in a government hospital. And now, one has a report of an alleged case of rape at a law college in Kolkata.

These incidents are deeply concerning and raise serious questions about our system. Society demands firm assurances from those in power that the safety of women will be taken seriously, as they are clearly at risk even in health-care institutions. Citizens need to push the government to reassure women that they will be safe at all times.

Yagyesh Shukla,
Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh

'Intensive revision' of rolls

The sudden and quick move by the Election Commission of India for "intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar" (Front page, June 29), creates the perception that a large-scale manipulation of voter rolls is underway to exclude a minority community, Dalits and poor migrant workers. The exercise appears to be a sinister move akin to bringing in the NRC through the back door.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

The timing makes one wonder what the purpose is. Can the mammoth exercise be completed as per schedule? The integrity of the poll process must not be compromised under the guise of verification.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

Corrections & Clarifications

The price of the Mercedes-Benz, GT 63 PRO 4MATIC+ is ₹3.65 crore (ex-showroom) and not ₹3.65 lakh, as mentioned in the text of a report, "Mercedes-Benz unveils AMG GT 63 variants at ₹3 crore" ('Business page' – 'In Brief', June 28, 2025).

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The forced sterilisations of Emergency

Ashwani Kumar

Professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences and author of 'Community Warriors: State, Peasants, and Caste Armies in Bihar'. Views are personal

As India marks the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, one of the most horrific and least acknowledged chapters of Indian democracy is of state-sponsored, forced sterilisation practices, popularly known as *nasbandi* in public memory. The sterilisation campaign, masquerading as population control, was a spuriously neo-Malthusian, eugenic exercise of state violence. It is an atrocity almost without any parallel in any democracy, for its sheer scale, brutality, and brazen invasion of the bodily autonomy of men and women. What began as a globally endorsed population policy, promoted by agencies such as the Ford Foundation, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, was converted into a grotesque tool of political repression. While India's National Family Planning Programme had long advocated sterilisation as a voluntary method of birth control, the campaign took a violent turn during Emergency, under the ambitious yet authoritarian leadership of the unelected maverick politician, Sanjay Gandhi, and his cronies. The targets were mainly the poor, slum dwellers, Dalits, minorities, and rural communities.

Past instances

Historically, there have been forced sterilisation practices globally. They were often justified by public health, eugenics, or social hygiene discourses. Researchers have documented that in the U.S., over 60,000 people, including the mentally ill, poor, Black, Native Americans, and Latina women, were sterilised between 1907 and 1979 under state-level eugenics laws. In Sweden, investigative reports revealed that 63,000 people deemed "unfit" for parenthood were sterilised between 1935 and 1976. This scandal eventually forced the government to apologise publicly and offer compensation to survivors. Nazi Germany was notorious for weaponising modern biological science. Its 1933 Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring mandated sterilisation for about 4,00,000 people before and during World War II. Combining anti-poverty rhetoric and authoritarian disciplining of marginalised populations, Peru's President Alberto Fujimori oversaw the forced sterilisation of 3,00,000 mostly indigenous and rural women in the 1990s. China's one-child policy, which resulted in millions of coerced and non-consensual sterilisations, particularly targeting rural and ethnic minorities, exposed the darker side of biopolitics of contemporary world.

The sterilisation campaign, masquerading as population control, was a spuriously neo-Malthusian, eugenic exercise of state violence

The Emergency's abuses

Anthropologist Emma Tarlo in her seminal research in Delhi mentions that people referred to the Emergency as the '*nasbandi ka vakat* (the sterilisation time)', and the very term Emergency (Āpātkāl) became synonymous with sterilisation, a stigma for many in public life. The Shah Commission, set up the investigate the Emergency's abuses, recorded 1,778 sterilisation-related deaths and hundreds of injuries. It also noted that thousands of sterilisations happened unofficially. Leading researchers and demographers Pai Panandiker and K.G Jolly in their district-level studies of family planning point out that India performed around 1.3 million vasectomies in 1975 and 2.6 million in 1976. Within a year, total sterilisations – male and female combined – jumped to approximately 8.3 million in 1977, making it the most extensive coerced sterilisation campaign ever conducted globally. The northern States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh turned into the 'vasectomy belt'.

In Patna in Bihar, where the Jayaprakash Narayan-led student movement was most intense, there were many nasbandi excesses. No one was spared, whether ticketless passengers, daily wage labourers, beggars, under trial prison inmates, or wandering monks. Young people who apparently looked "hippie" were targeted. Possessing a sterilisation certificate became a grim necessity for daily survival. An individual needed a sterilisation certificate even to buy essential goods from a ration shop. Villagers often fled homes, hid in fields and forests, and clashed with police squads. Underground activists of the student movement organised protests in Patna, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Saran, and Bhojpur. Reports suggest that the Bihar government conducted about 4,50,000 sterilisations in 1976-77. Quotas were imposed on block officials, panchayat heads, teachers, doctors, and local police house officers. Incentives of cash, rice and job preferences were paired with punishments such as job losses and withheld salaries and promotions.

As resistance to forced sterilisations grew, so did repression. The Uttar Pradesh police opened fire on October 16, 1976, in Khalpur in Muzaffarnagar, killing 25 people, mostly Muslim men. The incident was known as the Nasbandi Goli Kand (sterilisation bullet massacre). Local reports mention that in Haryana's infamous Uttawar village raid in November 1976, police and 700 officials sterilised 180 men after cutting power and surrounding the area.

The Emergency's sterilisation campaign revealed what Cameroonian political theorist Achille Mbembe called the 'necropolitics'. By the 1977 elections, sterilisation had become a chilling symbol of the atrocities of the Emergency, contributing decisively to the Congress's humiliating rout in most of north India. No wonder the song '*Kaya mil gaya sarkar tumhe/ Emergency lagake/ Nasbandi karake* (What did you gain, Oh government, by imposing the Emergency... by forcing sterilisations)' from the film *Nasbandi* (1978) became etched in public memory.

Too many players waiting in the wings

The overcrowded political landscape poses a challenge to the DMK and AIADMK

STATE OF PLAY

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Though every election is important, the 2026 Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu are especially crucial, as they are likely to determine the future of many political parties in the State, including of the AIADMK, which is one of the two major Dravidian forces. Bipolarity in Tamil Nadu politics has traditionally kept the AIADMK and its rival, the DMK, alive and relevant, regardless of electoral outcomes. However, the losing party in 2026 may struggle to stay afloat, since many others are waiting in the wings.

The DMK, led by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, has managed to hold its alliance together and maintain a relatively stable front since 2017. Its partners – the Left parties and the Congress – have little choice but to stick with the DMK because of ideological and strategic reasons. The presence of the BJP prevents them from switching sides or experimenting with other alliances. The Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), led by Thol. Thirumavalavan, remains in the DMK-led alliance not only because of its opposition to the BJP, but also because any alliance that includes the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) is unacceptable to it. Mr. Stalin has already started touring districts under the slogan 'Tamil Nadu under one front,' with the goal of enrolling 2 crore members.

On the other hand, the AIADMK-led alliance remains in disarray. It is grappling with multiple issues, particularly of power-sharing after the elections. The BJP, driven by the single-minded agenda of

breaking new ground in Tamil Nadu, often acts as if it leads the alliance and tries to dictate terms to the AIADMK. This has caused a lot of bitterness among the AIADMK rank and file. The PMK, a potential ally, is entangled in a family feud between its founder, S. Ramadoss, and his son Anbumani Ramadoss; this has created uncertainty about its political direction. No amount of persuasion has stopped Dr. Ramadoss from talking about internal disputes in public and projecting his son as his arch rival. Even if reconciliation occurs, the damage may be irreparable, as the war of words has already eroded unity in the second tier of leadership.

As for the AIADMK, though former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami is under pressure to forge a strong alliance to take on the DMK, he remains indecisive about reconciling with the faction led by another former Chief Minister, O. Panneerselvam. In his calculations, V.K. Sasikala, the close aide of the late J. Jayalalithaa, and T.T.V. Dhinakaran, who leads his own party, the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam, do not seem to count. Mr. Palaniswami overlooks the fact that these factions still retain some support among a particular community in Tamil Nadu, even if that support is difficult to quantify.

Both the AIADMK and the BJP are hoping that actor-turned-politician Vijay's Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) will join them, although there have been no overtures from Mr. Vijay's side. Mr. Vijay aims to project himself as an alternative to the traditional political parties in Tamil Nadu. However, as of now, his party is no match to the DMK or the AIADMK in terms of organisational strength and financial clout. Mr. Vijay may garner a share of the vote, but is unlikely to emerge as a major challenge to either Dravidian party. While he is still young in politics, Mr. Vijay may fade into irrelevance if he fails to play his cards wisely.

Another player is Seeman, the leader of the Naam Tamizhar Katchi, who has refused to align with any party. Seeking to mobilise voters on the Tamil nationalist plank, his party crossed the 8% vote share in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and now qualifies as a recognised State party under the Election Commission of India's guidelines. Mr. Seeman seems determined to fight the Assembly elections on his own, but he may find it difficult to stay relevant unless he wins seats.

The overcrowded political landscape poses a serious challenge to both the DMK and AIADMK. Neither can afford to lose these elections. The DMK is attempting to capitalise on its record of fulfilling electoral promises and maintaining a cohesive alliance. The AIADMK, once a formidable force, has not yet mobilised effectively to take advantage of the anti-incumbency factor that even the best performing governments face. It is unclear whether anti-incumbency will benefit the AIADMK or Mr. Vijay. Even if Mr. Vijay succeeds, that may help the DMK, as it will prevent the AIADMK from gaining the edge that it desperately needs.

Boeing faces headwinds from crashes and competition

Boeing is financially struggling as operators have gravitated towards companies such as Airbus

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

Earlier this month, a London-bound Air India plane crashed soon after take off in Ahmedabad, killing all but one of the 242 people aboard. This was one of the deadliest disasters involving a passenger aircraft in India in the last two decades. While this was the first Boeing 787 Dreamliner to crash, data shows that this is the latest in a litany of problems that Boeing faces.

Only weeks before the crash in Ahmedabad, Boeing had agreed to pay $1.1 billion in a deal with the U.S. Department of Justice to avoid prosecution over two crashes – one in 2018 and the other in 2019 – involving 737 Max airliners. In total, 346 people died in these incidents. Lawyers of the victims of these crashes criticised the payout deal as "morally repugnant".

Boeing's stock prices plummeted after the crash in Ahmedabad, but have recovered since. Data show that Boeing's stock prices had fallen steeply after other crashes as well **(Chart 1)**.

For instance, in October 2018, when Lion Air Flight 610, a Boeing 737 MAX airliner, crashed killing 189 people, the company's stock fell sharply. On March 10, 2019, Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302, a Boeing 737 MAX 8, crashed minutes after take off. The company's stock dropped again – this time more steeply than what Boeing had ever seen. That incident claimed 157 lives. The company also suffered setbacks when its 787 variants were grounded by the U.S. after these accidents, and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2020-2021 period.

Last week, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) criticised Boeing's safety culture for the mid-air blowout of a 737 MAX 9 flight operated by Alaska Airlines in January 2024. It said that Boeing had failed to provide adequate training and oversight to prevent a mid-air cabin panel blowout. The NTSB is now working with India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau to extract data from the black box of the plane that crashed in Ahmedabad. In the ongoing investigation of the incident, no aircraft-related problems have been reported yet.

According to data from the Aviation Safety Network, a high incidence of accidents, as well as a high number of fatalities, involved Boeing-manufactured aircraft between 2019 and 2024 **(Chart 2)**.

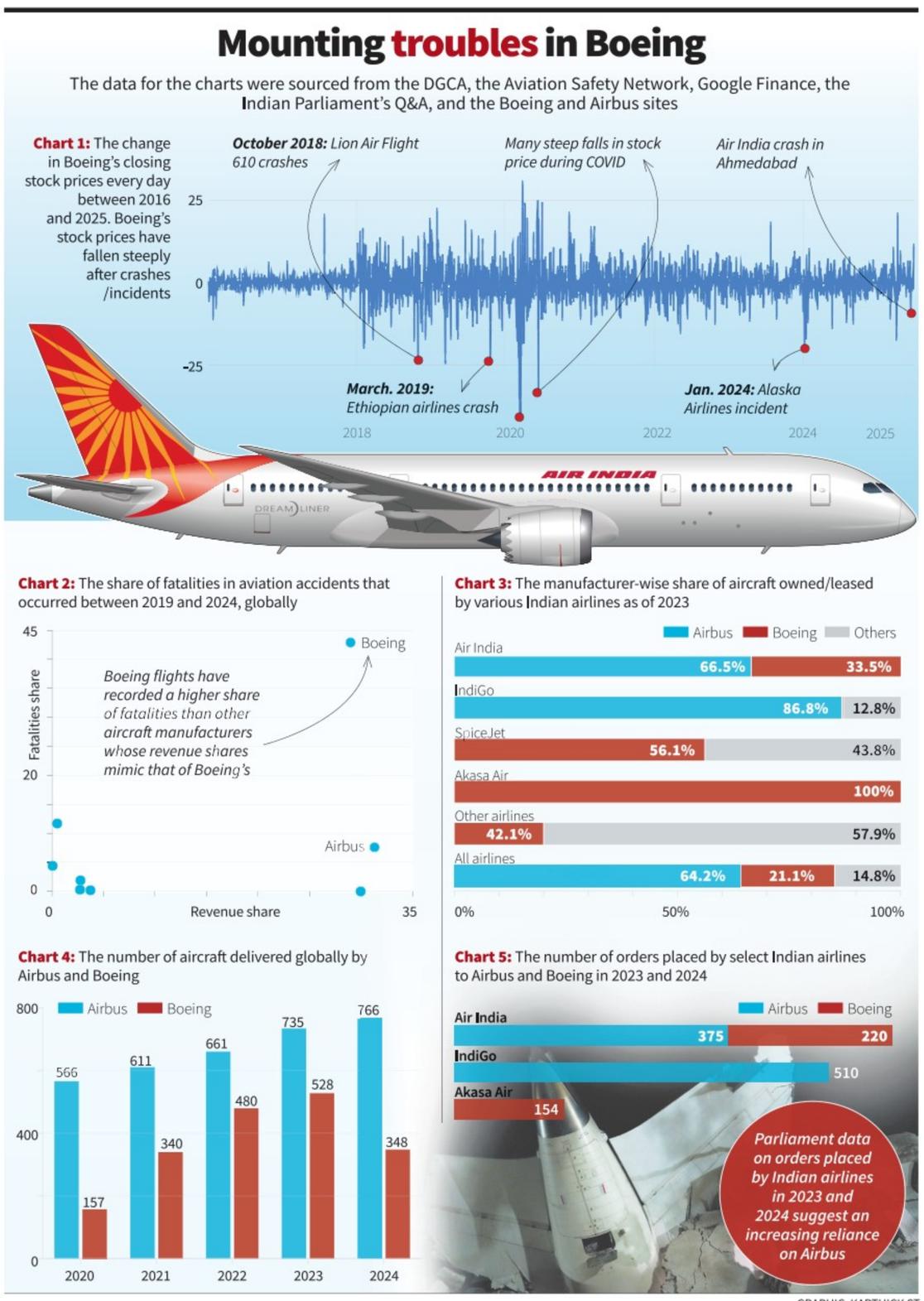
In the last five years, 26.2% of all aviation accidents have involved a Boeing plane. This is much higher than the share of accidents involving other aircraft manufacturers such as Airbus whose revenues mimic those of Boeing.

Also, close to 43% of all fatalities in aviation accidents between 2019 and 2024 involved a Boeing plane. The company is financially struggling now as investors and operators have gravitated towards companies such as Airbus.

Fleet statistics from 2023, published by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, show that a majority of India's fleet was manufactured by Airbus **(Chart 3).** Only 22% of the fleet were manufactured by Boeing. Only some Indian airlines such as SpiceJet and Akasa Air relied more on Boeing.

Company reports from Airbus and Boeing show a huge difference in the number of aircraft delivered by the two dominant aircraft manufacturers, globally **(Chart 4).** Last year, Airbus delivered 766 aircraft, while Boeing delivered 348. The number of deliveries by Airbus has steadily grown since 2020 as opposed to Boeing's.

Parliament data on orders placed by Indian airlines in 2023 and 2024 also suggest an increasing reliance on Airbus **(Chart 5).** In the last two years, IndiGo has placed 510 new orders with Airbus. Air India has placed 375 orders with Airbus and 220 with Boeing.



GRAPHIC: KARTHICK ST

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 30, 1975

'Slide teaching' may revolutionise education

New Delhi, June 29: A revolution in education is in the offing with the development of an indigenous technology for the large-scale preparation of teaching aids by the Indian Registry of Pathology (IRP) in New Delhi.

Originally developed for teaching pathology in medical colleges, the development can be adapted for the teaching of any subject in schools and colleges, it is said.

The IRP technology essentially consists in the presentation of teaching material in slides. IRP is now producing black and white colour slides of autopsy specimens, whole disease organs, charts, formulas and tables as teaching material for medical students, Dr. S. Sriramachari, Director of the Registry, said.

The impact on education of the 'slide technology' will be tremendous, it is said, because IRP's methods for mass-producing colour transparencies at an extremely low cost is based on the ordinary Eastman cinematographic film.

So far slides have been made with conventional colour film like "Kodachrome and Ektachrome at a cost of over Rs. 4 per slide. IRP slides cost less than 40 paise each.

"The use of cinematographic film for this purpose has ushered in a virtual technological revolution," Dr. Sriramachari said.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has expressed interest in the IRP technology for making educational slides. What would take 15 minutes to draw on the blackboard can be shown in one slide, Dr. Sriramachari said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 30, 1925

Shanghai Akali Jatha

Bombay, June 29: An Akali Jatha from Shanghai arrived here by the China mail steamer, *Sicilia*. The party is composed of 25 men, some of whom were engaged in business and others belonged to the Shanghai Police Force. The Sikh population of Shanghai numbers about 1,400 souls.

The present Jatha has not yet decided its programme. On arrival the Sikh population of Bombay gave the Jatha a rousing reception and took them in a procession, with the Granth Sahib placed in a gaily decorated motor car.

From Page One

Maharashtra scraps three-language policy

The Thackeray cousins announced that a massive protest planned for July 5 would now be turned into a victory rally.

However, Mr. Uddhav Thackeray also said that the BJP was trying to draw a wedge between Marathis and non-Marathis in the State, while Mr. Raj Thackeray expressed reservations about the Narendra Jadhav-led committee. "We are assuming that the three-language policy for primary education has been scrapped. If the government tries to create any mess due to the committee report, we will not let this committee function in Maharashtra," he said in a post on Facebook.

Experts who had campaigned against the government orders also reacted with scepticism about the government's intentions. "While we are very happy and the credit goes to the unity of Marathi people who stood behind us, it is likely that the government is still trying to push this decision. What was the need of a committee? They should have just announced the scrapping of the decision," said Laxmikant Deshmukh, who heads the Maharashtra government's own language consultation committee. "To me, it seems like the government is trying to push through the RSS agenda of 'Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan'. We need to be cautious," he told *The Hindu*.

Marathi Abhyas Kendra president Deepak Pawar, a prominent voice against the policy, also raised concerns about Dr. Jadhav's expertise. "Let the government issue a GR [government resolution] first, to the effect of the scrapping of the first two GRs. Let us see how clear and unambiguous the wording of the new order is. Only then can we rejoice. Till then, our agitation will continue.," he said.

Census: States told to fix boundary changes

For Census 2021, which could not take off initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will now be known as Population Census-2027, the notification published on January 9, 2020 said that the first phase will begin on April 1, 2020 and end on September 30 the same year. For the 2021 Census, the Centre had notified 31 questions for the first phase related to household details.

On April 30, the Union Cabinet decided to include caste enumeration as part of the next Census exercise.

The Population Census-2027 will, for the first time, enumerate caste.

On June 4, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the commencement of the Census, adding that it will have a reference date of 12 a.m. on March 1, 2027, but did not specify when the first phase will begin.

On June 16, the RGI and the Census Commissioner of India, which functions under the Ministry, notified the process in the Gazette of India.

Census is conducted in two phases - the HLO, where the housing conditions, assets and amenities of each household is collected, and the Population Enumeration (PE), which captures the demographic, socio-economic, and cultural details, as well as other information on every person in each household.

Three dead, over 50 hurt in Puri stampede

Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a scathing attack against the Mohan Majhi-led government following the incident, which he said had exposed the government's glaring incompetence in ensuring a peaceful festival for devotees.

"I am deeply pained by the stampede during the Mahaprabhu Jagannath Rath Yatra, which claimed three lives and injured at least 50 people. The negligence and mismanagement that led to this tragedy are inexcusable," said Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

Every year, the coastal town of Puri in Odisha comes alive with the Rath Yatra, a centuries-old festival of Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities, who are installed in majestic wooden chariots, and ceremonially pulled by devotees from the 12th-century Shree Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple, which is considered the abode of Lord Jagannath's aunt.

Lakhs of devotees gather along the Bada Danda, or the Grand Road, to witness the spectacle. The deities remain at Gundicha Temple for seven days, where they are worshipped before returning to the main temple. Darshan of the deities on the chariots is considered especially auspicious.

This year, however, the Rath Yatra held on Friday was marred by mismanagement. The three chariots could not complete their journey to Gundicha Temple by sunset, as required by tradition. After sunset, pulling of the chariots was halted and resumed only the following morning. By Saturday, the chariots were brought near the Gundicha Temple but the deities remained on them.

Thousands of devotees have started arriving at night for darshan of the deities on the chariots, in a bid to avoid the daytime crowds. However, the situation turned chaotic when darshan was temporarily stopped due to the Pahada ritual, when the deities are put to rest. Once the Pahada was lifted, devotees surged forward, causing severe congestion. The close placement of the chariots further aggravated the situation, ultimately leading to a stampede.

Manipur delegation to meet Home Ministry officials today

The team, drawn from three Meitei groups, will focus on territorial integrity, opening of highways, rehabilitation of displaced people, and security for farmers living on periphery of Imphal Valley

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A 19-member delegation from three Meitei-led groups in Manipur is scheduled to meet officials from the Union Home Ministry in Delhi on Monday to work on resolving a long-drawn ethnic conflict.

These groups are the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity, the All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation, and the Federation of Civil Society Organisations.

A member of one of these organisations said the discussion would focus on four issues: territorial integrity of Manipur, opening of two arterial highways, resettlement and rehabilitation of the internally displaced people, and security for farmers living and working on the periphery of the Imphal Valley.

"Non-Meitei members are part of the delegation," he said.

Manipur has been in turmoil since May 3, 2023, when the ethnic conflict between the non-tribal Meitei people and the tribal Kuki-Zo communities broke out.

Conflict resolution: Scale of violence has reduced, but tension prevails in areas near Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley and the surrounding foothills majorly inhabited by the Kuki-Zo people. AFP

The conflict has left more than 250 people dead and some 60,000 displaced.

'Buffer zone'

The scale of violence has come down over the past few months, but tension prevails, specifically along the "buffer zone", a strip separating the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley from the surrounding foothills where the Kuki-Zo people are in the majority.

The issue of territorial integrity refers to the demand of some Kuki-Zo groups for the creation of a "separate administration."

The Meiteis continue to be "barred" from using the National Highway-2 and National Highway-37, which connect the Imphal Valley to the rest of the country through areas controlled by the Kuki-Zo people.

Farmers in the valley operating in their fields close to the "buffer zone" have occasionally come under fire from armed groups in the hills.

In the latest incident on June 19, a Meitei farmer was killed in the Phubala area of the Bishnupur district adjoining Churachandpur.

Haryana village shuns family of Navy clerk arrested for 'spying'

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Young men in the village have been cautioned not to indulge in 'illegal and anti-national activities'

The residents of Punsika village in Rewari district of Haryana on Sunday decided to socially boycott the family of Indian Navy staffer Vishal Yadav, who was arrested by the intelligence wing of the Rajasthan Police four days ago on charges of spying for Pakistan.

Sarpanch Satyalpal Yadav informed mediapersons that a decision had been taken at a meeting to ostracise the family for "bringing a bad name to the village".

"The young men in the village have also been cautioned not to indulge in any such "illegal and anti-national activities", he said.

Mr. Vishal Yadav belonged to a well-off family, and was good at both studies and sports, Prem Prakash Yadav, a villager, told a news channel.

Mr. Vishal Yadav's family had served the country as his grandfather was an ex-serviceman, and his father an Assistant Sub-Inspector in the Haryana Police, he added. Although the family had shifted to Rewari five years ago, Mr. Vishal Yadav's arrest has caused embarrassment to the entire village, Mr. Prem Prakash Yadav said, adding, "It still is difficult for us to believe it."

Sunil, another villager, said Mr. Vishal Yadav had not been in touch with the villagers after his family had shifted out.

"We felt bad to learn about his arrest. We interacted with him when the family stayed in the village. To us, he seemed to be a well-behaved boy," Mr. Sunil said.

The accused is an Upper Division Clerk in the Directorate of Dockyard at Nausena Bhawan. He was allegedly leaking classified information to a woman handler of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), who posed as an Indian woman.

Mr. Vishal Yadav had been under surveillance since 2022, and was arrested on June 25 after data retrieved from his mobile phone was analysed.

Airlines are not reporting misconduct of passengers, says aviation watchdog

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has said that airline operators either substantially delayed reporting to it incidents of passenger misconduct or unruly behaviour or not reported them at all.

Pointing to increasing number of cases where passengers' rage or unruly behaviour posed a threat to the safety of the flight, other passengers and crew, the aviation regulator reiterated its earlier instructions that such incidents should be reported within 12 hours via email to the Chief of Flight Safety/Director Cabin Safety (Inflight services) and a detailed information be submitted to the DGCA within 24 hours of landing of the flight.

The DGCA said the norms are applicable to all scheduled and non-scheduled operators and other operators who carried cabin crew on board an aircraft.

DGCA says such incidents should be reported within 12 hours via email. AP

The aviation watchdog had in its earlier circulars reminded pilots, cabin crew and directors of Inflight services of their responsibilities under the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) on dealing with unruly passengers.

The latest advisory comes against the backdrop of several instances of unruly behaviour of passengers under the influence of alcoholic beverages, scuffle among passengers after heated arguments, sexual harassment of women passengers on board and even incidents with a potential to compromise the safety of aircraft operations.

Besides legal action against cognisable offences reported on flights by respective law-enforcing agencies, guidelines were issued in 2017, which stated that complaints of unruly behaviour would be examined by an internal committee.

It would take a decision on the matter within 30 days and also specify the duration of ban on the unruly passenger.

During the period of pendency of such inquiry, the concerned airline may impose a ban on the passenger.

For every subsequent offence, the ban would be twice the period of previous ban.

Congress flays proposal to revive mining operations in Sariska Tiger Reserve

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday attacked the Centre and Rajasthan governments over the reported plan to redraw the boundaries of the Sariska Tiger Reserve for the reactivation of over 50 mining operations, saying the move would be "ecologically devastating".

Congress general secretary, communications incharge, Jairam Ramesh shared on X a media report which claimed that a plan to redraw the boundaries of Rajasthan's Sariska Tiger Reserve is inching closer to approval, paving the way for the reactivation of over 50 mining operations that the Supreme Court had previously ordered shut.

There was no immediate response from the Centre or the Rajasthan government on the claims.

Mr. Ramesh pointed out that the Sariska Tiger Reserve near Alwar is an outstanding example of revival.

A tiger spotted at the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. FILE PHOTO

"The tiger population at Sariska had been reduced to exactly zero by December 2004 thanks to an hyperactive poaching network. This created a nationwide shock and led to the creation of the Tiger Task Force in April 2005," he said in a post in X.

Mr. Ramesh said thereafter along with the Panna Tiger Reserve, relocation was initiated at Sariska in the face of considerable scepticism from some experts themselves and today the tiger count stands at a historic high of 48.

"Now the boundary of the tiger reserve is about to get redrawn. This will enable 50 mining companies which have been closed down to resume operations," Mr. Ramesh claimed.

"The Union Environment Minister is from Alwar. So is the Environment Minister of Rajasthan. Surely this double engine cannot be supporting such corridor fragmentation to benefit the mine owners," Mr. Ramesh said.

Adarsh Saji elected SFI president, Srijan general secretary

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Adarsh M. Saji (Kerala), and Srijan Bhattacharya (West Bengal) were elected president and general secretary, respectively, of the Students Federation of India (SFI) here on Sunday at the organisation's ongoing four-day national conference.

Mr. Saji is a native of Chathannur in Kollam district in Kerala, a release from the SFI stated. He has earlier been the State vice-president and national joint secretary of the SFI. Mr. Saji is a final year LL.B. student at the Janhit College of Law, Delhi.

Mr. Bhattacharya is a native of Jadavpur in West Bengal. He has been the SFI's national joint secretary. He was a candidate of the Left Front in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly election from Singur, and the 2024 Lok Sabha election from Jadavpur.

The meeting also elected an 87-member central executive committee.

Accusing the Centre of trying to snatch away the rights of the poor to study through the National Education Policy, Mr. Saji said the SFI would launch protests against such policies in the coming days. Mr. Bhattacharya said that steps would be taken to increase the organisation's strength in the Hindi heartland.

52 villages adjoining LAC, LoC in Leh, Kargil districts declared reserved areas

Press Trust of India
LEH/JAMMU

It includes 18 revenue villages in Leh district and 34 revenue villages in Kargil district

Fifty-two villages along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the Line of Control (LoC) have been declared reserved by the administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh to enable residents of these identified areas to get reservation benefits in recruitment and other sectors, a notification issued on Sunday said.

The Ladakh administration has achieved yet another milestone with the issuance of an official notification declaring specific areas as adjoining the Actual Line of Control under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, as amended by the Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025, an official spokesperson said.

This includes 18 revenue villages in Leh district situated along the LoC and the LAC, and 34 revenue villages in Kargil district situated along the LoC.

The declaration follows a structured process initiated through a one-member Commission under Justice Bansi Lal Bhat, a former judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Commission was tasked with identifying areas, villages and hamlets adjoining the LAC in Ladakh for reservation benefits under the Act. An internal committee constituted to examine the Commission's findings and recommended acceptance of the identified areas.

Based on these recommendations, the administration has officially accepted and declared the areas for the purpose of reservation under the Act.

India rejects Pakistan claim about attack in Waziristan

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India has slammed Pakistan for attempting to blame it for a suicide attack in the Waziristan area of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

At least 13 security personnel were killed and 24 injured in the attack on Saturday.

"We have seen an official statement by the Pakistan Army seeking to blame India for the attack in Waziristan on June 28," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday night.

"We reject this statement with the contempt it deserves," it added.

Education system is ruined in Bihar: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Ahead of the Bihar Assembly election, Rajya Sabha member and senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh on Sunday slammed the Janata Dal(U)-led NDA government in the State for 'ruining' the education system.

Mr. Singh said that the government schools in the State are in a poor condition and have the highest dropout rate in the country. The schools lack electricity, teachers, computers, and libraries. He shared data from the UDISE+ 2023-24. "There are 2,637 schools in Bihar where there is only one teacher, and 2.91 lakh students are enrolled in these schools. There are 117 schools where not even a single student is enrolled, yet 544 teachers are posted there. Bihar also has the highest school dropout rates: primary: 8.9%; upper primary: 25.9%; and secondary: 25.63%," he said.

In the Budget 2025-26, the Bihar government claimed to have allocated ₹60,954 crore for education but the truth is that this money is lost to corruption, he alleged.

People had won against Emergency, says Modi

Those who imposed the measure had also intended to enslave the judiciary, says PM in his *Mann Ki Baat* address; he highlights wider reach of government schemes, women-led development

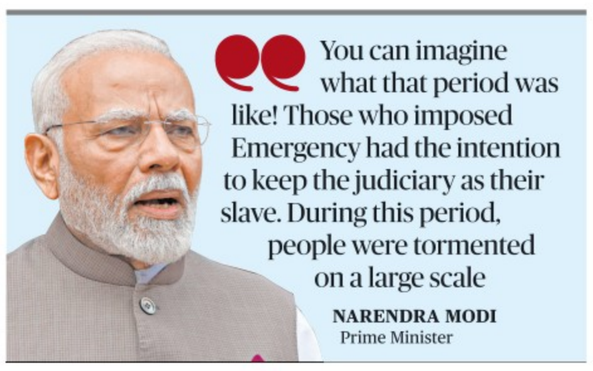
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said those who had imposed Emergency not only murdered the Constitution but also intended to enslave the judiciary.

During his *Mann Ki Baat* address, the audio clips of former Prime Ministers Morarji Desai and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and former Deputy Prime Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram, speaking on the Emergency, were played.

About Morarji Desai's remarks, Mr. Modi said: "You can imagine what that period was like! Those who imposed Emergency not only murdered our Constitution, but also had the intention to keep the judiciary as their slave. During this period, people were tormented on a large scale... [former Defence Minister] George Fernandes was tied with chains," he said.

However, people did not accept any "compromise with democracy". "Finally, the people at large won – the Emergency was lifted and those who imposed the Emergency were defeated," he said.



The Emergency was imposed by the Congress government under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on June 25, 1975. A clip of Vajpayee calling the defeat of the government in the 1977 election a "peaceful revolution" by voters was played.

Noting that India had now become a trachoma-free country, the Prime Minister said the achievement was recognised by the World Health Organization.

Quoting an International Labour Organization report, Mr. Modi said over 64% of the population (about 95 crore) was getting the benefit of at least one social security scheme, while till 2015, government schemes reached less than 25 crore. Mr. Modi also spoke about the "International Yoga Day" events organised in different parts of the country and overseas.

On pilgrimages, he stated that they were means of disciplining the body and purifying the mind, mutual love and brotherhood, and connecting with God.

"After a long time, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has had an auspicious restart... Kailash is considered the centre of faith and devotion in every tradition, be it Hindu, Buddhist or Jain," he said.

On the progress made in the Bodo Territorial Area of Assam, Mr. Modi said the Bodoland CEM Cup was being organised as a celebration of unity and hope.

Among the participants were about 70,000 players, including a large number of girls.

Referring to the diversity of arts, crafts, and skills in the country, he cited the example of Eri Silk of Meghalaya, calling it "a perfect product for the global market" which got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.

He spoke about women-led development, quoting the example of Bhadrachalam of Telangana, where women earlier working as labourers were now making biscuits from millets.

"At this moment, everyone's eyes are also on the International Space Station. India has scripted new history. Yesterday I also spoke to Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla," he said, adding that on July 1, two key pillars of society – doctors and chartered accountants – would be honoured.

People take to the streets in Kolkata, add intensity to protests over gang rape

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

NCW member Archana Majumdar, centre, leaves after visiting the South Kolkata Law College, where a student was gang raped. PTI

People from all walks of life on Sunday joined protests against the gang rape of a law college student in Kolkata.

Protests were held outside South Calcutta Law College where the alleged crime had taken place on June 25 and the Kasba police station, where the FIR has been registered.

By evening, protests spilled to different parts of the city, including Jadavpur, Rashbehari, and Harzra. Supporters of "Abhaya Mancha" a group created after the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at R.G. Kar Hospital and Medical College on August 9, 2024, participated in the protests, along with students and the elderly.

While activists of political parties have been protesting over the past few days since the incident came to light, common people joined the protests on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, National Commission for Women (NCW) member Archana Majumdar visited the law college, and said the police could not provide her with the details of the whereabouts of the survivor. NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar had written to the Chief Secretary seeking cooperation from the State government so that Dr. Majumdar can have access to the site of the crime and the survivor.

"Yesterday till midnight I spoke to the victim's parents. I told them I would come and meet them. This morning, when we tried to reach them, they did not pick up the phone. When I asked the police, they said they didn't know. When I asked SP Baruipur, he said their house was under lock and key," Dr. Majumdar said.

The NCW member also said that some rooms at the law college, which is the scene of the crime, were locked and she was not allowed to photograph.

Four persons, including two present students and an ex-student and a security guard of the law college, have been arrested by the Kolkata Police.

The survivor, in her complaint, said that she was sexually assaulted by one person while two others stood outside.

The medico-legal examination and the recording of the statement by the survivor under Section 183 of BNSS have been completed.

Meanwhile, the Kolkata Police have increased the number of officers in the special investigation team to probe the crime to nine.

On the draw

Trinamool in a tight spot over remarks by leaders on gang rape of student

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The remarks by Trinamool Congress leaders on the gang rape of a student in a law college and bickering between its own leaders have put the party in a tight spot.

Since June 27, when the Kolkata Police arrested three persons, including a former student leader associated with the student wing of the ruling party, in connection with the crime, the Trinamool Congress has been busy dissociating itself from the prime accused, Monojit Mondal. However, the remarks by senior party MP Kalyan Banerjee and Madan Mitra, MLA, have come as a bigger embarrassment to the party.

While Mr. Banerjee had said, "If a friend rapes another friend, then how will the government authorities provide protection in such cases," Mr. Mitra said that the survivor should not have ventured alone in the college. On Sunday, the party issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Mitra saying his comments were uncalled-for and insensitive.

The Trinamool State president, Subrata Bakshi, issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Mitra for breaking party rules. He has to reply within three days. "Your uncalled-for and insensitive comments have affected our party's image," the notice said.

BJP leaders and supporters march with flaming torches and placards during a protest rally in Kolkata. DEBASISH BHADURI

Earlier on Saturday, the Trinamool disassociated itself from, and condemned, the statements made by Mr. Banerjee and Mr. Mitra. "The remarks made by MP Kalyan Banerjee and MLA Madan Mitra concerning the heinous crime at South Calcutta Law College were made in their personal capacities. The party unequivocally dissociates itself from their statements and strongly condemns the same. These views do not reflect the position of the party in any manner whatsoever," the Trinamool said in a social media post.

In a social media post, Mr. Banerjee had said that he completely disagrees with the post made by @AITCofficial on X. "Are they indirectly supporting the leaders who are shielding these criminals? What's even more unfortunate is that some of the leaders who emerged after 2011 are themselves under question in such crimes," the Trinamool MP said. Mr. Banerjee added that he wishes to clearly distance himself from those who are encouraging or protecting these criminals.

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra took a dig at the leaders who had made insensitive remarks on the rape. "Misogyny in India cuts across party lines. What differentiates @AITCofficial is that we condemn these disgusting comments no matter who makes them," she said.

Cong. slams govt.'s silence on reported jet losses to Pakistan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Citing an Indian defence attache's remarks in Indonesia that the Indian Air Force lost fighter jets to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor because of "political constraints", the Congress on Sunday charged the government with "misleading" the country.

Congress general secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh, writing on X, shared a media report that quoted Captain (Indian Navy) Shiv Kumar, speaking at a seminar in Indonesia recently, saying the Indian Air Force lost fighter jets to Pakistan on the night of May 7, 2025 during its targeting of terror-linked sites in Pakistan.

"First the Chief of Defence Staff makes important revelations in Singapore. Then, a senior defence official follows up from Indonesia. But why is the PM refusing to preside over an all-party meeting and take the Opposition into confidence? Why has the demand for a special session of Parliament been rejected?" Mr. Ramesh asked.

His party colleague and publicity head, Pawan Khera, said the Modi government had "misled the nation from the start – failing to disclose the aircraft losses". He alleged that the latest revelations were a direct indictment of the Narendra Modi government, particularly the Defence Minister. He said the government was "scared" of the Congress as it was not sure what the Opposition party could "expose".

RLD pushes for Brahmin welfare Board for uplift of community

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday demanded the formation of a Brahmin welfare Board in the State for the uplift of the community.

Criticising certain alleged nefarious elements for targeting the community, RLD national secretary Anupam Mishra added that a comprehensive survey should be conducted to assess the socio-economic condition of the Brahmin community, forming the basis for a concrete policy.

"The Brahmin community has historically made a vital contribution to the cultural, educational, religious, and administrative growth of the State. Yet, in the current times, the community is grappling with a range of socio-economic challenges. Certain nefarious elements are targeting the community. There is a pressing need for targeted support to economically weaker sections within the Brahmin community. Therefore, I believe that the establishment of a Brahmin welfare Board in Uttar Pradesh is the need of the hour," Mr. Mishra told *The Hindu*.

He said he wrote a letter to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath this week, pressing the demand highlighting that several States had already established dedicated Boards or commissions for the welfare of Brahmins.

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
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Sl No	Tender Id	Items
1	2025_KMML_771578_1	For the supply of 1100 MR Pipe Seamless CS 200mm
2	2025_KMML_771214_1	For the supply of Pipe Inconnel 600 Seamless
3	2025_KMML_771331_1	For the supply of FRP Bisphenol pipe and fittings
4	2025_KMML_771874_1	For the supply of 310 MR of Pipe SS304 Seamless schedule 80 size 50mm NB
5	2025_KMML_772254_1	For the supply of Class I Brick Acid Resistant
6	2025_KMML_771855_1	For fabrication & supply of Radiant Coil Assembly
7	2025_KMML_772035_1	For fabrication & supply of Tickle Condenser E207A
8	2025_KMML_772013_1	For fabrication & supply of Condensing Column Cooler E204-205

Chavara 27-06-2025 sd/- Managing Director for the Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

On Nitish's turf, Chirag vows to transform Bihar

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan on Sunday pledged to transform Bihar.

He was addressing an impressive crowd at the "Bahujan Bhim Sankalp Samagam" at Rajgir in Nalanda, the home district of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

It was Mr. Paswan's first public rally after making a formal announcement in Ara three weeks ago that he would contest the upcoming Assembly election.

The Hajipur MP said that such support reflected the people's resolve for social justice and equality. "To transform and develop Bihar, all Biharis will have to become Chirag Paswan with me. I will contest all 243 seats in Bihar, and wherever there are alliance partners, I will fight as Chirag Paswan so that Bihar becomes the number one State and Biharis too become number one," Mr. Paswan said.

Chirag Paswan

Mr. Paswan said that since he speaks about the development of Bihar and the education of the youth, the Opposition leaders in Bihar fear his arrival in State politics.

"The family of Lalu Prasad once gave jobs but took away the land of the poor, backward communities, and Bahujans. Tejashwi Yadav*ji* is talking about giving jobs again, so tell us, what will they take away this time in return? But I have come to fight selflessly for Bihar and Biharis. Today, the whole of Bihar is unitedly saying 'Bihar First-Bihari First'," he said.

"Until I make Bihar a developed State, I will neither rest nor tire. This is not just a promise, it is my resolve. Be it children or the elderly, women or youth, people from every section will be united under Chirag's leadership to empower the resounding voice of the Bahujan movement. This is not just a gathering, but a resolve of Bahujan self-confidence and dedication," Mr. Paswan said.

AMBUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (AEDOL)
43/53, Raja Muthiah Road, Periamet, Chennai - 600 003 Telephone: 044 - 4204 1132 / 3552 8648
email: aedolchennai@yahoo.co.in, aedolchennai@gmail.com Website: www.aedol-spv.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR UP-GRADATION OF COMMON EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT VANITEC PVT. LTD. VANIYAMBADI

AEDOL, as Implementation Agency of Upgradation of CETP system in VANITEC CETP, VANITEC PVT. LTD., VANIYAMBADI at Tamil Nadu under STEP scheme of DPIIT, GOI invites sealed bids in two cover system (1. Technical Bid & 2. Financial Bid) separately from experienced agencies, who have completed similar works on turnkey basis for the undermentioned work:

Name of Work	Value of EMD
Tender No.7/2025: Design, detailed engineering, supply, installation, commissioning and trail run of Upgradation of ERD Energy recovery turbochargers & accessories at Existing 2nd Stage RO Plant on turnkey basis at Vanitec CETP.	Rs.2.92 Lakhs
Tender No.8/2025: Design, detailed engineering, civil construction, supply, installation, commissioning and trail run of Pre-Treatment system with pre-settler & associated works on turnkey basis at Vanitec CETP	Rs.4.41 Lakhs
Tender No.9/2025: Design, Detailed Engineering, Construction of Scientific Closure of Existing Secured Landfill on Turnkey basis at Vanitec CETP	Rs.15.23 Lakhs
Tender No.10/2025 : Design, detailed engineering, supply, installation, commissioning and trail run including civil works of 1.5m3/hr, Agitated Thin Film Dryer (ATFD) on turnkey basis at Vanitec CETP	Rs.4.81 Lakhs
Sale Period / Tender Download	**On all working days from 7th July to 24th July 2025**
Pre-Bid Meeting	**15th July, 2025 at 2.30 pm at AEDOL Office**
Date of submission	**25th July, 2025 at 3:00 pm at AEDOL Office**
Date of Technical Bid Opening	**25th July, 2025 at 3:30 pm at AEDOL Office**

Interested Tenderers may apply to issue of Tender documents by submitting a written application for each tender separately along with profile to the **Managing Director, AEDOL, Chennai-3,** Soft copy of tender documents shall be issued free of cost. Further the tenderer may participate either in one or more than one tender. **AEDOL** reserves the right to withdraw this proposal or reject any or all bids or to allot part of the work to different agencies without assigning any reasons thereof.

Managing Director
AEDOL

INBRIEF

Huge quantity of explosives seized in Jharkhand forest

Security forces seized a huge quantity of explosives from a Maoist dump in a forest in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharswan district, a police officer said on Sunday. The explosives including 500 electronic detonators were seized from a Maoist dump set up in Gobargota forest near Raijama village, a statement issued by Superintendent of Police Mukesh Kumar Lunayat said. The security forces seized five improvised explosive device of 3 kg each, 14 numbers of IEDs of one kg each, 9 pieces of cane bomb (IED) of half kg each, and nine bundles of commercial codex wire. All the explosives were destroyed on the spot by bomb disposal squad. A case under relevant sections of BNS, Explosive Act, UAP Act and CLA Act was registered in this regard, the statement added. PTI

Army apprehends Pakistan national along LoC in J&K

The Indian Army on Sunday apprehended a Pakistan national along the Line of Control (LoC) in Tarkundi sector of Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said. He was apprehended while trying to cross over to this side from across the LoC, they said. The army officials are presently questioning the man, identified as Mohammad Arib Ahmed, son of Mohd Yousaf, a resident of Detote in Nikiyal Tehsil of Kotli. Some items were recovered from his possession. The apprehended individual, sources said, will be handed over to police for further investigation and action. PTI

162 students rescued from inundated school in Jharkhand

Press Trust of India
JAMSHEDPUR

At least 162 students trapped in an inundated private residential school in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district after heavy rain were rescued by the police on Sunday, a senior officer said.

The students were trapped in the school located at Pandarsoli on Haldipokhar-Kowali Road since Saturday night after the premises were flooded due to heavy rain.

"We received information that 162 students of Lav Kush Residential School were trapped. As the school building was submerged, the teachers had shifted all the students to the rooftop, where they spent the night. On being informed around 5.30 a.m. today, police officers and fire brigade teams rushed to the spot and rescued the students one by one with the help of villagers," Superintendent of Police (Rural) Rishabha Garg told *PTI*.

"Boats were used for the rescue operation while the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was requisitioned. However, the police team rescued the students before the NDRF team's arrival," he added.

Two killed after landslide hits hotel site in Uttarkashi

Seven people missing after disaster triggered by cloudburst; NDRF, SDRF, and police carrying out search operations on a war footing, says District Magistrate; Chardham Yatra suspended for a day

Press Trust of India
UTTARKASHI

Two workers were killed while seven went missing early on Sunday after a landslide triggered by a cloudburst hit their campsite at an under-construction hotel along the Yamunotri National Highway in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, officials said.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), SDRF and police personnel are jointly carrying out search and rescue operations at the site on a war footing, District Magistrate Prashant Arya said. Chardham Yatra was suspended for a day in view of heavy rainfall at various places across the State and possibility of landslides, the officials said.

Bodies of the two labourers were recovered from the banks of the Yamuna river near Tiladi Shaheed Smarak, about 18 km from the place where the landslide occurred, Sub-Inspector Vikram Singh said.

There were 29 labourers at the campsite when the landslide occurred washing away around 10 metres of the highway. Twenty of them were evacuated to safety while nine went missing, Mr. Arya said, adding that bodies of two of them have been found. The labourers were from Nepal, Dehradun and Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit, he added.

Disaster response: The SDRF conducts a rescue operation in Baligarh along the Barkot-Yamunotri road, in Uttarkashi on Sunday. The highway has been closed at many places since the cloudburst. ANI

The landslide occurred at Silai Bend about 4 km ahead of Paligad, Uttarkashi, he said.

The deceased were identified as Dujelal (55) from Pilibhit and Keval Visht (43) from Nepal. Their bodies have been sent to Naugaon community health centre, the officials said.

The missing labourers include Roshan Chaudhry (37), Anveer Dhami (40), Kallu Ram Chaudhry (60) and Sar Katel Dhami (32) from Nepal and Jaichand (38), Chhotu (22) and Priyansh (20) from Dehradun, the District Magistrate said.

Highway blocked

The highway is blocked by landslide debris at Silai Bend and Gujri Bend, he said. Pilgrims returning from Yamunotri have been asked to stay at safe locations due to the blocked highway, he added. Reopening the highway may take a few hours, he said, adding a PWD team is busy clearing the route.

"Search and rescue operations are under way at the site. I am constantly in touch with the officials concerned," Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said. He has issued instructions to open the closed roads and provide food and medicine to pilgrims waiting at different locations on the Chardham route.

The Meteorological Department has issued a red alert for heavy rains on Sunday and Monday in various districts, including Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Haridwar, Nainital, Champawat and Udham Singh Nagar, prompting authorities to put the Chardham Yatra on hold.

Monsoon covers entire country nine days ahead of schedule

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon has covered the entire country nine days before the normal date of July 8, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday. The monsoon reached Delhi on Sunday, a day ahead of the normal onset date of June 30.

According to the IMD data, this is the earliest the monsoon has covered the entire country since 2020, when it did so by June 26.

The monsoon usually makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It retreats from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15. However, this year, the monsoon reached Kerala on May 24. This is its earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it had arrived on May 23, the IMD has recorded.

The monsoon advanced rapidly over the next few days, covering areas up to central Maharashtra, including Mumbai, and the entire northeast by May 29. Thereafter it stagnated for around 18 days, from May 29 to June 16.

(With PTI inputs)

Reservation chart set to be prepared 8 hours prior to departure of train

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

To remove uncertainty for waitlisted passengers, the Railway Board has proposed preparing the reservation chart eight hours before the departure of a train, officials from the Indian Railways said on Sunday.

"However, for trains departing before 1400 hours (2 p.m.), the chart will be prepared the previous day at 2100 hours (9 p.m.)," a senior official from the Railway Ministry said. Currently, the chart is prepared four hours prior to the departure of a train.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has agreed with this proposal and directed the Board to start implementing this in phases so that there is no disruption. "This move will reduce uncertainties for passengers with waitlist tickets. The passengers will get the first update on waitlist status well in advance," the official said.

Performance boost: The new passenger reservation system will let over 1.5 lakh bookings per minute, says an official. ANIL KUMAR SASTRY

"It will benefit passengers travelling from remote locations or suburbs of major cities for catching long distance trains. It will also provide more time to make alternative arrangements in case the ticket is not confirmed," the official added.

Mr. Vaishnaw also reviewed the progress of reforms to revamp the Passenger Reservation System from the point of view of making the end-to-end travel experience passenger-centric. He emphasised that the ticketing system should be smart, transparent, accessible, and efficient. Officials said a modern Passenger Reservation System (PRS) is slated to be ready by December.

Mr. Vaishnaw reviewed the upgrading process of the PRS, which is being executed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).

1.5 lakh tickets a minute

The new upgraded PRS design is "agile, flexible, and scalable" to handle 10 times the current load. "The new PRS will allow over 1.5 lakh ticket bookings per minute. This will be an increase of roughly five times from 32,000 tickets per minute in the current PRS," the official added.

The ticket enquiry capacity will rise from 4 lakh to over 40 lakh a minute. "The new PRS has a multilingual and user-friendly booking and enquiry interface. Users will be able to submit their choice of seat and see the fare calendar. It also has integrated facilities for Divyangjan, students, patients, etc.," the official said.

At ISS, Shukla takes up experiment on skeletal muscle degradation in space

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who is aboard the International Space Station (ISS), has commenced research activities at the orbiting laboratory.

According to Axiom Space, the crew members are fully immersed in their mission having transitioned smoothly from arrival protocols to hands-on research.

Axiom Space said Shux (Group Captain Shukla's mission call sign) spent time in the Life Sciences Glovebox (LSG) working on the Myogenesis experiment.

"This study aims to uncover the biological pathways behind skeletal muscle degradation in space – a major challenge for astronauts. By identifying these mechanisms, researchers hope to develop targeted therapies that could not only protect space travelers but also aid people suffering from muscle–degenerative diseases on Earth," Axion Space said.

Lab work: Shubhanshu Shukla spent time in the Life Sciences Glovebox working on Myogenesis experiment, says Axiom Space. ANI

The ISRO has shortlisted seven microgravity experiments which Mr. Shukla would be conducting during his 14-day stay at the ISS. Myogenesis has been proposed by the Bengaluru-based Institute of Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem).

The ISRO has said that the experience gained through the seven experiments is expected to nurture a microgravity research ecosystem in India, resulting in the induction of advanced microgravity experiments in various disciplines in the Indian space programme.

The ISRO and NASA will also participate in five joint science investigations and two in-orbit STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) demonstrations.

Axiom said the crew initiated the Cerebral Hemodynamics study, completing the first session after installing the necessary software. "Using ultrasound technology, this research explores how blood circulates in the brain under microgravity conditions. The findings could improve our understanding of cardiovascular adaptation in space and inform medical diagnostics and treatments for conditions like stroke and hypertension on Earth," it said.

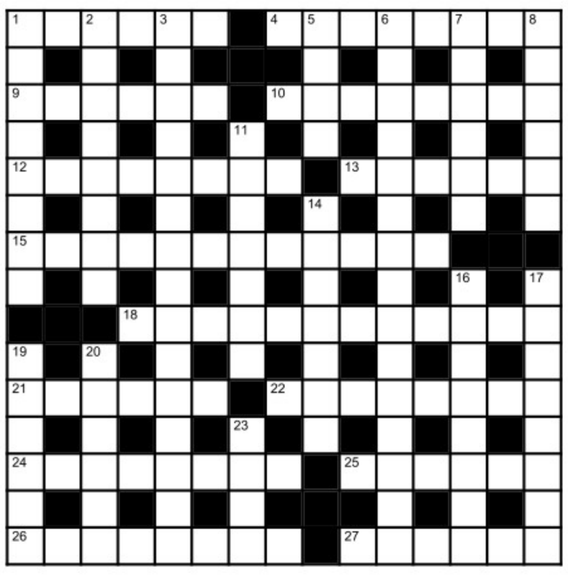
The Axiom-4 mission research complement includes around 60 scientific studies and activities representing 31 countries, including the U.S., India, Poland, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Nigeria, the UAE, and Europe.

TH CROSSWORD + 14524

(set by VMA Nair)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 It might bring rain near Indian military base until summer, primarily (6)
4 One's permitted to fabricate new watch without crown to begin with (8)
9 Community hospital adjoining city (6)
10 Shopkeeper aspired to tour Roman Catholic Church at last (8)
12 Player from Spain excitedly accompanying them for the most part (8)
13 Recovery of posh platinum vase (6)
15 A lot of smart newlyweds having sex in lounges (7,5)
18 On vacation, healthy chaps rebuilding local hotel compound (5,7)
21 Setter starts to disclose information to company doctor (6)
22 Rerelease unclear changes before end of Month (8)
24 Flying from Austria through South Africa, say, avoiding borders of Namibia (8)
25 Element of hydrogen extracted from compound of helium and iodine (6)
26 Italian soldier wearing dirty pants in tension (8)
27 Dirty husband backing recurrent violations without a bit of embarrassment (6)

Down

1 Retired employees retaining position at work and jobs for the boys (8)
2 Musical ornaments of modern times lacking essence, sadly (8)
3 Innocent lives overwhelmed by pathetic sound, perhaps (15)
5 Suggestion - avoid eating sandwiches (4)
6 President ultimately dismissed active impeachment cases? That's a defence strategy (6,9)
7 Excellent pals? (4-2)
8 Remaining measuring instrument needs a little servicing (6)
11 Planet inhabited by colourful spotted cats (7)
14 Organiser welcoming Bob's widow (7)
16 Banker taking check for five-dollar bill? That's more dangerous (8)
17 Lecturer abruptly concluded after a while (8)
19 Reduce troublemaker's voice (6)
20 Moving slowly, say, transporting diamonds to current capital of Germany (6)
23 Pack fish after removing head (4)

SUDOKU

	5				8		6	
7	1				2	3		
					6		9	7
		5		2	7			1
			9		1			
4			6	8		9		
9	4		2					
		7	1				4	6
	6		8				5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS6566 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	I	N	T	E	R	N	A	T
D		I		R		E		R
A	L	T	E	R	N	A	T	E
N		R		O		R	A	
C	H	O	I	R		E	S	S
E		G				R		U
D	R	E	A	M	S			
		N		E		S		E
			P	S	S	T		
A		N		S		E	L	
C	O	O	P	E	R	A	T	E
I		T		N		L		S
D	Y	I	N	G		I	N	S
S		C		E		N		E
	R	E	F	R	I	G	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	2	8	6	7	3	4	9
9	6	4	1	5	3	2	8	7
8	3	7	9	2	4	6	5	1
6	4	1	7	3	5	8	9	2
7	9	8	2	1	6	4	3	5
3	2	5	4	9	8	7	1	6
1	8	6	3	7	9	5	2	4
2	7	3	5	4	1	9	6	8
4	5	9	6	8	2	1	7	3

FAITH

Sibling bonding

It is commonly perceived that in the Kali Yuga we are living in, people tend to place rivalry, competitiveness, avariciousness and gathering of power and pelf as the topmost agenda, instead of accumulating virtuous deeds, said P. Swaminathan. Many devotees give token importance to rituals, forgetting all the good things our scriptures tell us on how to lead a virtuous life.

It is a reality in today's world that brothers are at loggerheads over property and parental responsibility, with families failing to forge the kind of bond that is not only ideal but also highly desirable for happy coexistence in this world.

The Ramayana and the Mahabharata reiterate the importance of sibling bonding and virtuous conduct. Rama was to be anointed as the king when Kooni, with her narrow vision, convinced Kaikeyi to seek her son Bharata's coronation in place of the older brother. When this was conveyed to Rama, He readily agreed to obey his parents' wishes, and left for the forests to live like a hermit for 14 years.

An equally noble Bharata refused to ascend the throne and when his efforts to persuade Rama to return to Ayodhya and rule the kingdom failed, he installed Rama's paduka on the throne and remained a regent. The Mahabharata, likewise, shows how the Pandava brothers took the cue from the virtuous older brother Yudhisthira and obeyed him in toto.

Reading scriptures and adhering to a dharmic way of life has been followed by kings, especially in Tamil Nadu, from time immemorial.

'Disclose PEDs to insurers'

COVERNOTE

Vaishali R. Venkat

For now, hiding a pre-existing disease (PED) from an insurer before buying a healthpolicy might seem to be an advantage with lower cost premium. However, the reality is it can lead to rejection of the claim or even policy cancellation. In both cases, the policyholder must pay exorbitant medical bills from his/her pocket.

When one buys cover, he/she is entering into a contract with the insurer. All the medical insurance policies are developed on a legally-binding principle - 'utmost good faith' so the insurer and the policyholder must be transparent and honest. While buying the policy, the policyholder has an obligation to disclose all relevant details regarding his/her health conditions, including PEDs. If even a small piece of information on PEDs is not disclosed, it means the policyholder has violated the fundamental legal principle, thereby forcing the insurer to reject claim or even cancel the policy itself. The premium the policyholder has paid till then will go down the drain.

What are PEDs?

A PED is a disease/medical condition existing in an individual even before buying a policy. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) guidelines say illness/disease is treated as a PED if it was diagnosed within three years (36 months) prior to the purchase of the policy by a recognised doctor. (Previously it was 48 months but IRDAI brought it down to 36 months, effective from April 1, 2024.) In common insurance parlance, if an individual knows he has a health issue before buying the policy, it is considered a PED and must be disclosed.

V. Mangala, senior subject-matter executive, Aionion Insurance Marketing Pvt. Ltd., says, "It must be noted not every visit to a doctor is treated as a PED. For instance, if you consult a doctor for normal fever, cold, cough, etc. you need not reveal these details. PEDs are those ailments that have a major impact on your general health in the long run. Say, for instance, BP, cholesterol, thyroid, asthma, piles, diabetes, lumbar issues, previous surgery or heart attacks, epilepsy etc., these must necessarily be divulged to the insurer."

Waiting period

Another concept while buying health insurance policy is the waiting period. Most insurers in India cover pre-existing diseases but only after the waiting period gets over. If any medical emergency occurs during the waiting period, especially related to the PED, then in almost all cases, the claim would naturally be rejected by the insurer. Though the concept of wait period is there in all insurers, the wait time might differ across insurers. Generally, majority of the insurance companies provide coverage to PEDs after a waiting period of two to three years.

Ms. Mangala says, "In some insurance companies, riders are sold separately at an additional premium. These riders reduce the waiting period, and some insurance companies also cover PEDs from Day 1 with or without a rider, of course, the premium will be high. Therefore, before buying a policy, whether an individual health insurance policy or a family floater policy, the policyholder must choose a policy that has no/lower waiting period."

Co-payment clause

Some insurers might offer PED coverage with a 'co-payment' clause. Based on co-payment agreement, the policyholder must pay an agreed portion of the total claim amount only then the insurance company will settle the remaining claim amount.

Ms. Mangala says that it is always advisable and cost-effective to choose a policy without the 'co-payment' condition so that the entire claim amount would be settled by the insurance company."

(The writer is a NISM & CRISIL-certified wealth manager)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Patience is key: Stay invested over an adequate time period and take home tax-efficient returns. GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

Generating tax efficiency in debt-oriented funds

Debt funds are taxable at your marginal slab rate; there are certain funds that are taxable at 12.5%; the risk-return profile of the funds is not exactly same as debt funds but similar

LESS TAXING

Joydeep Sen

> In Arbitrage Funds, there is no directional call on equities viz returns are not dependent on equity prices rising; it is about the differential called spread

> Gold and Silver ETFs are taxable at 12.5% plus surcharge and cess, on 1-year holding period; you can buy and sell ETFs on stock exchanges similar to equity stocks

Earlier, investments in debt mutual funds (MFs) had indexation benefit vis-a-vis long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax making investments tax efficient. If you stay invested for three years or more, with the benefit of indexation, tax incidence used to be much lower. Since April 2023, new investments in debt MFs are taxable as short-term capital gains (STCG) at a marginal tax rate. For most investors, this is 30% plus surcharge and cess. This makes tax incidence on debt funds higher than earlier. Dividend option, now called Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal option was anyway taxable in the hands of the investor at a marginal slab rate.

Then there was a twist in the tale. In the July 2024 Union Budget, certain changes were made in the context of taxation. Earlier, Fund of Funds (FoFs) were taxable as debt funds. Since July 2024, FoFs are taxable at 12.5% plus surcharge and cess over holding period of two years. Today, there are some funds offered by the MF industry that are debt oriented but taxable at a rate lower than your marginal slab rate.

Fund of Funds

FoFs, over a holding period of two years, are taxable at 12.5% plus surcharge and cess. FoFs may be equity or debt oriented, or hybrid. As long as it is debt oriented, your tax rate is lower than the marginal slab rate for most investors, which makes it tax efficient. The risk profile satisfies the need of the relatively stable portfolio component. The typical structure is allocation to debt funds is, say 60% for the sake of discussion. The balance, 40% will be to Arbitrage Funds.

Arbitrage Funds: These are equity funds. However, there is no directional call on equities. That is, returns are not dependent on equity prices rising . It is about the differential, called spread, between price of a stock in the cash/spot segment and the futures segment. This can be part of fixed income allocation. In Arbitrage Funds, the allocation to cash-futures arbitrage is usually 65-75% of the portfolio. The balance is in money market instruments.

One aspect of FoFs is there are two layers of expenses. The FoF has its expense ratio. The underlying funds, in whose units the FoF is investing, have own expense ratio The funds positioned in this bracket, do not keep expenses prohibitively high. In other words, net of the tax efficiency, for people in higher tax bracket, and two layers of expenses, it is beneficial for the investor.

Multi Asset Funds

Since April 2023, another category of MFs opened for taxation purposes. Funds with allocation to equity in the range of 35-65% of the portfolio, were eligible for LTCG and indexation benefit over a holding period of 3 years. The 2024 Union Budget took away indexation. After July 23, 2024, the funds are taxable viz. LTCG at 12.5% over a two-year holding period.

The typical structure of these funds would be equity at less than 65% of portfolio, say 60 or 50%, 10-15% in commodities like gold or silver, and balance in debt instruments. The question here is, there is an equity component of say 50-60% of portfolio and it is not a pure debt fund. There are two ways of looking at it. One, if AMC (asset management company) is doing an arbitrage strategy in the equity component, then it becomes quasi-debt. Two, this is a hybrid fund and you may allocate to equity in overall portfolio. This 50-60% equity allocation in a fund should fit into overall portfolio allocation.

Arbitrage Funds: The funds earn from the spread in stock prices. The price in futures segment is usually higher than in cash/spot segment, which is captured. Even if equity prices fall, the spread is captured. The funds are quasi-debt in a sense. Technically, these are equity funds, taxable at a LTCG of 12.5% over a holding period of 1 year. For less than one year, these are taxable at 20 %.

Gold ETFs Gold and Silver Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are taxable at 12.5% plus surcharge and cess, on 1-year holding period. You can buy and sell ETFs on stock exchanges similar to equity stocks. You need demat and trading accounts with a broker. Online facilities make it easier. There are apps you can download and trade.

Conclusion

Tax efficiency is not the criterion for portfolio allocation. It is done as per investment objectives, risk-return profile and investment time horizon. After deciding on overall portfolio allocation, in debt component of the portfolio, rather than paying tax at marginal slab rate, you may consider these debt-oriented funds. The risk-return profile of the funds is not exactly same as debt funds but similar. You can stay invested over an adequate time period and take home tax-efficient returns.

(The writer is a corporate trainer (financial markets) and author)

Taking active decisions?

THINKINVESTOR

Active decisions expose you to future regret; the more you deviate from default process, more the likelihood of future regret. This does not mean not to deviate; it means have good reason to do so

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

You can invest in active funds but decide to passively manage fund units. Or, you can invest in passive funds but can actively manage investments. Arguably, any investment decision you take could be an active decision. For instance, whether to invest in a bank deposit and in which bank to keep the deposits. In this article, we look at the active decisions relating to your core (goal-based) portfolios.

Active decisions

We define active decisions as those that deviate from a default process. Consider the decisions you must take relating to core portfolios. You must determine asset allocation for each goal – the proportion to invest in equity and bonds. The default proportion is based on the return needed to achieve a goal. This is dependent on four variables – time horizon for a goal, inflation-adjusted amount required to achieve the goal, expected return on equity and bonds, and the amount you are willing to save to achieve the goal. But if you were to decide asset allocation other than the default allocation, you are taking an active decision.

Having decided the allocation, your next step is to decide on the benchmark index for equity investments. The default choice is the broadest index available in the country you invest in.

But if you choose, say, a large-cap index, you are making an active decision. Next, you must decide whether to invest in a passive product (index fund or an ETF) or an active product. The default is a passive product. If you were to choose an active product, you are making an active decision. A default investment for bond allocation is bank deposits. Your default process must also include the frequency and the process to rebalance your investment portfolios.

Conclusion

Why should you be mindful of active decisions? Such decisions expose you to future regret. The more you deviate from the default process, the more the likelihood of future regret.

This does not mean you should not deviate from the default process. It means you must have a good reason to do so.

That is why it is best to draft a default process to create and manage your core portfolios. The default process is the same whether you invest for an eight-year goal or for your retirement that is far away. Importantly, it makes you mindful of the risks and the potential rewards when you take active decisions.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.25	6.50	7.25	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.80	7.60	7.50	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.60	4.75	6.00	5.75
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.20	7.50	7.75	8.20
slice Small Finance Bank	9.00	6.75	8.25	7.75
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.40	7.90	8.40	8.00
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.75	7.65	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	8.60	7.00	8.00	8.00
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.25	8.25	7.75
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.60	6.25	6.50	6.50
Bandhan Bank	7.75	7.75	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	6.75	6.75	6.65	6.25
CSB Bank	7.40	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.65	6.40	6.45	6.30
DCB Bank	7.40	7.00	7.00	7.00
Federal Bank	6.85	6.50	6.70	6.50
HDFC Bank	6.60	6.25	6.45	6.40
ICICI Bank	6.60	6.25	6.60	6.60
IDFC FIRST Bank	6.75	6.25	6.75	6.75
IndusInd Bank	7.00	6.75	6.75	6.65
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.30	6.75	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	6.85	6.60	6.60	6.60
Karnataka Bank	6.75	6.60	6.25	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.60	6.25	6.40	6.25
RBL Bank	7.30	7.10	7.10	7.00
SBM Bank India	8.05	7.50	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	6.70	6.50	6.20	5.70
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.05	6.80	6.25	6.25
YES Bank	7.10	6.75	7.10	6.75
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.40
Bank of India	7.00	6.50	6.25	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.15	6.25	6.30	6.25
Canara Bank	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.50
Central Bank of India	7.00	6.70	6.75	6.50
Indian Bank	6.90	6.10	6.25	6.00
Indian Overseas Bank	7.10	6.70	6.30	6.30
Punjab National Bank	6.70	6.40	6.40	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.05	6.10	6.00	6.35
State Bank of India	6.60	6.25	6.30	6.05
Union Bank of India	6.85	6.60	6.60	6.40

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	7.50-8.70	7.50-8.70	7.50-8.70
Bank of Baroda	7.50-9.25	7.50-9.25	7.50-9.50
Punjab National Bank	7.55-9.35	7.50-9.25	7.50-9.25
Bank of India	7.85-10.35	7.85-10.35	7.85-10.60
Canara Bank	7.50-10.25	7.45-10.25	7.40-10.15
Bank of Maharashtra	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15	7.35-10.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75	7.55-10.75
Indian Overseas Bank	7.35 #	7.35 #	7.35 #
Indian Bank	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40	7.40-9.40
Central Bank of India	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40	7.35-9.40
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
ICICI Bank	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
Axis Bank	8.75-12.80	8.75-12.80	8.75-9.65
HSBC Bank	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
South Indian Bank	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60
Karur Vysya Bank	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40
Karnataka Bank	8.62-10.86	8.62-10.86	8.62-10.86
Federal Bank	9.15 #	9.15 #	9.15 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50	8.15-9.50
Bandhan Bank	8.66-15.00	8.66-12.83	8.66-12.83
RBL Bank	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
CSB Bank	9.61-11.34	9.61-11.34	9.61-11.34
HDFC Bank	8.45 #	8.45 #	8.45 #
City Union Bank	9.55-14.95	9.35-14.95	9.35-13.25
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.49 #	7.49 #	7.49 #
Tata Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.25-14.50	8.25-14.50	8.25-12.35
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Sammaan Capital (Formerly Indiabulls Housing Finance)	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Aditya Birla Capital	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
ICICI Home Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #

#Onwards Rates as on June 25 Source:Paisabazaar.com

WASHINGTON

Not planning to extend a pause on global tariffs beyond July 9: Trump

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said he is not planning to extend a 90-day pause on tariffs on most nations beyond July 9, and his administration will notify countries that the trade penalties will take effect unless there are deals with the U.S. Letters will start going out "pretty soon" before the approaching deadline, he said. AP

KYIV

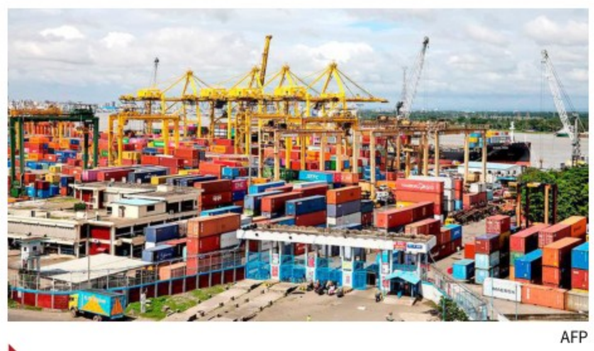
Russia launches the biggest aerial attack since the start of the war

REUTERS

Russia launched its biggest aerial attack against Ukraine overnight, a Ukrainian official said on Sunday. Russia fired a total of 537 aerial weapons at Ukraine, including 477 drones and decoys and 60 missiles, Ukraine's Air Force said. Of these, 249 were shot down and 226 were lost, likely having been electronically jammed. AP

DHAKA

Strike by customs officials shuts down Bangladesh's biggest port



AFP

Operations at Bangladesh's biggest port were suspended on Sunday as a strike by customs officials brought shipping activity to a halt. The shutdown at Chittagong Port is part of an ongoing dispute between tax authority employees and the government, which is trying to overhaul the body. AFP

SAO PAULO

Bolsonaro rallies supporters to protest his Supreme Court trial

REUTERS

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro attended a public demonstration in Sao Paulo to protest against his ongoing Supreme Court trial. Bolsonaro and 33 allies are facing trial over an alleged plot to overturn the 2022 presidential election results and remain in power. They were charged with five counts related to the plan. AP

Children among 23 killed by Israel troops in Gaza

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli air strikes and gunfire killed 23 people in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory on Sunday, including at least three children.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said that his services "transported 23 martyrs, including several children and women" killed in various locations around the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Bassal said two children were killed in an air strike on their home in Gaza City's Zeitun neighbourhood in the early morning, adding "the house was completely destroyed".

Israel orders Palestinians to evacuate parts of north Gaza

Trump reiterates call for truce, saying 'Make the deal in Gaza, get the hostages back'; military to warn Netanyahu that expanding fighting to new areas in Strip may endanger remaining hostages

Reuters
CAIRO

The Israeli military ordered Palestinians to evacuate areas in northern Gaza on Sunday before intensified fighting against Hamas, as U.S. President Donald Trump called for an end to the war amid renewed efforts to broker a ceasefire.

"Make the deal in Gaza, get the hostages back," Mr. Trump posted on his Truth Social platform early on Sunday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was due to hold talks later in the day on the progress of Israel's offensive. A senior security official said the military will tell him the campaign is close to reaching its objectives, and warn that expanding fighting to new areas in Gaza may endanger the remaining Israeli hostages.

Unbridled grief: Mourners attend the funeral of Palestinians killed in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday. REUTERS

But in a statement posted on X and text messages sent to many residents, the military urged people in northern parts of the enclave to head south towards the al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis, which Israel designated as a humanitarian area.

Palestinian and UN officials say nowhere in Gaza is safe.

Escalation in Jabalia

The evacuation order covered the Jabalia area and most Gaza City districts. Medics and residents said the Israeli Army's bombardments escalated in the early hours in Jabalia, destroying several houses.

Court postpones Israeli PM's appearance in a graft trial

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

An Israeli court on Sunday postponed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's testimony in his corruption trial after he requested a delay with the support of U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Following the explanations given... we partially accept the request and cancel at this stage Mr. Netanyahu's hearings scheduled" for this week, the Jerusalem district court said in its ruling.

Trump's backing

Mr. Netanyahu's lawyers had asked the court to excuse him from testifying over the next two weeks so he could focus on security issues.

Support system: A demonstrator at a protest in Israel's Tel Aviv demanding the immediate release of hostages held in Gaza. REUTERS

Mr. Trump on Wednesday described the case against Mr. Netanyahu as a "witch hunt", saying the trial "should be CANCELLED, IMMEDIATELY, or a Pardon given to a Great Hero".

He added in a post on his Truth Social platform on Saturday that the United States was "not going to stand" for the continued prosecution, prompting Mr. Netanyahu to thank him in a message on X.

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid on Thursday criticised Mr. Trump, saying he "should not interfere in a judicial trial in an independent country".

U.K. government condemns 'death to the IDF' chants at Glastonbury music festival

Agence France-Presse
GLASTONBURY

A British punk-rap group faced growing criticism on Sunday for making anti-Israel remarks at Glastonbury festival that have sparked a police probe.

Bob Vylan led crowds in chants of "Death, death to the IDF", a reference to the acronym for the Israeli military, during their set on Saturday.

British police officers are also examining comments by Irish rap trio Kneecap, who have likewise been highly critical of Israel and its ongoing military campaign against the Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

One of Kneecap's members wore a T-shirt dedicated to Palestine Action Group, which is about to be banned under U.K. terror laws.

The U.K. government has "strongly condemned" Bob Vylan's chants, which festival organisers said had "very much crossed a line".

"We are urgently reminding everyone involved in the production of the festival that there is no place at Glastonbury for anti-semitism, hate speech or incitement to violence," the festival said.

Avon and Somerset police said on Saturday that video evidence would be assessed by officers "to determine whether any offences may have been committed that would require a criminal investigation". The chants about Israel's military were led by Bob Vylan's frontman Bobby Vylan. They were broadcast live on the BBC, which airs coverage of Britain's most popular music festival.

At least 71 people killed in Israel's attack on Tehran's notorious Evin prison: Iran

Associated Press
DUBAI

At least 71 people were killed in Israel's attack on Tehran's Evin prison, a notorious facility where many political prisoners and dissidents have been held, Iran's judiciary said on Sunday.

Judiciary spokesperson Asghar Jahangir posted on the office's official *Mizan* news agency website that those killed on Monday included staff, soldiers, prisoners and members of visiting families. It was not possible to independently verify the claim.

The June 23 attack, the day before the ceasefire between Israel and Iran took hold, hit several prison buildings and prompted concerns from rights groups about the safety of the inmates.

It remains unclear why Israel targeted the prison, but it came on a day when the Defence Ministry said it was attacking "regime targets and government repression bodies in the heart of Tehran."

Multiple facilities hit

Mr. Jahangir did not break down the casualty figures but said the attack had hit the prison's infirmary, engineering building, judicial affairs and visitation hall, where visiting family members were among those who had been killed and injured.

On the day of the attack, the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran criticised Israel for striking the prison, seen as a symbol of the Iranian regime's repression of any opposition, saying it violated the principle of distinction between civilian and military targets.

Bangladesh vows 'most credible' polls in its history

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

The next general elections will be the"most credible and peaceful" in Bangladesh's history, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's aide has said, asserting that the interim government has taken all necessary measures to ensure free and fair polls.

Mr. Yunus's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam made the remarks on Saturday during an interaction with journalists in Khulna city, the state-run *Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha* news agency reported.

He said that the primary goal of the mass uprising in July 2024, which ousted the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime, was to restore democracy in Bangladesh and added that the interim government has taken all necessary measures to ensure free and fair elections.

General elections in Bangladesh are scheduled for the first half of April next year, the chief adviser announced last month.

PM Carney has a pragmatic approach, wants reset in India ties, says ex-envoy

Varghese K. George
OTTAWA

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has a pragmatic approach to global and domestic affairs which makes him vastly different from his predecessor Justin Trudeau and this could help a reset in the country's ties with India, according to Stewart Beck, former Canadian High Commissioner to India and former President and CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

Talking to *The Hindu* on Canada-India relations, and what to expect after the recent meeting between Mr. Carney and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Beck noted that both countries have a complicated relationship that needs careful management. "The relationship has gone through some highs and lows. In the 1970s, the first nuclear explosion by India had used Canadian technology too, which raised concerns on our side. Then in the 1980s, the bombing of Air India aircraft Kanishka, India's second nuclear explosion in the 1990s... There have been very positive developments, also some irritants ... the Khalistani separatism is an irritant that persists. It is a very complicated one and not easy for either side to understand fully," he said.

Stewart Beck

Mr. Beck, who has spent four decades as a Canadian diplomat in various positions, thinks the recent meeting between Mr. Carney and Mr. Modi during the G-7 summit in Canada was "a clear indication" that the relationship has turned the corner after the controversy around the 2023 killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Khalistani separatist in Canada. Mr. Trudeau had blamed India for the killing.

"Mr. Carney has a perspective different. He approaches relations with India quite positively, and he used the occasion of G-7 to put the ties on a positive track. And we need to do that, considering what is going on globally. India is a global player and we need to figure out the best way to manage the relationship. I think PM Carney is prepared to do that," Mr. Beck said. "There was an argument that he was inviting Mr. Modi too early to Canada. But he took the position that it was not about Canadian PM inviting Indian PM to Canada, but about Indian PM being invited to G-7 in Canada. India is one of the biggest economies of the world and it had to be there at G-7. He then used that opportunity for a bilateral meeting too. The message that came out from that meeting is that we need to have a reset."

The diplomat thinks the uncertainties around the Nijjar case and likely new revelations might cause fresh tensions. "Building more trust is the key. It takes more time, mutual familiarity and interaction. Whatever happened with the Nijjar assassination, we have to deal with it. It happened, there are accusations that remain, and we have to deal with that reality. We have not got all the facts. In Canada, we will have to deal with how far do we allow people to go. From may own perspective, having a float in a parade with the glorification of the assassination of Mr. Gandhi is a step too far. These sensitivities need to be addressed. In the Nijjar case, it is allegations at the moment and there is uncertainty about what will happen now. If these allegations are established as true, we have to have a mechanism to cope with it."

Mr. Beck is optimistic that regardless of the Nijjar case outcome, there are several reasons for better India-Canada ties. "Canadian pension funds have a significant role in financing infrastructure in India. We have interesting technologies in AI, biotechnology, climate change and we have things to offer," he said.

BACKHAND PASS

Djokovic's honest take on Sabalenka's level of play

AP

Novak Djokovic gatecrashed Aryna Sabalenka's press conference at Wimbledon on Saturday. "What did you think about hitting with me? How do you see my level? Am I good?" asked Sabalenka. "Can I be honest? You don't have enough intensity. It's too flat. You've to lighten up a bit and put some power into it," quipped Djokovic.

TOUGH ASK

Swiatek slams 'too intense' schedule for top stars

AP

Five-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek believes fans are being robbed of seeing tennis' biggest names performing at their best due to the intensity of a relentless schedule. "I think the scheduling is super intense. It's too intense. There's no point for us to play, like, over 20 tournaments in a year," she said.

PIONEER

Maharaj first South African spinner to take 200 wickets in Test cricket

X@PROTEASMENCSA

Keshav Maharaj, on Sunday, became the first spinner to scalp 200 Test wickets for South Africa during the first Test against Zimbabwe. Maharaj is the ninth-highest wicket-taker for South Africa, behind Steyn (439), Pollock (421), Ntini (390), Rabada (336), Donald (330), Morne Morkel (309), Kallis (291) and Philander (224).

REPRIMANDED

England fined for slow over-rate in opening WT20I against India

GETTY IMAGES

England has been fined 10% of its match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against India in the first Women's T20 International which the visitors won by 97 runs. The sanction was imposed as England was ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

Onus on Gill to pick up the pieces and boost Team India's morale

The new captain's situation is eerily similar to that of Kohli's in his first full-fledged Test series as skipper during the tour of Sri Lanka in 2015; the fact that the 25-year-old has come good with his batting would do his confidence a world of good

INDIA IN ENGLAND

N. Sudarshan
BIRMINGHAM

As shadows lengthened on day one of the first Test between India and England in Leeds, Shubman Gill would have been a pleased man. His side had reached a comfortable 359 for three and the captain had helped himself to 127 immaculate, unbeaten runs.

But fortune, as they say, has this uncanny knack of running out without forewarning, and over the subsequent four days, India slumped to a demoralising five-wicket defeat after having once had England by the scruff of the neck.

As the second Test begins at Edgbaston here from Wednesday, Gill has the arduous task of picking up the pieces and lifting the morale of a side that is also in the midst of a generational transition.

Gill's situation is eerily similar to that of Virat Kohli. In August 2015, in his first full-fledged Test series as skipper, Kohli's India fell to a crushing 63-run loss versus Sri Lanka in the opening tie in Galle.

The star batter had scored a first-innings century too but could only watch as Angelo Mathews' outfit broke out of the handcuffs and landed a fourth-innings knock-out punch. But Kohli won the next two matches, and thus the series. Gill will be hoping for a redux.

The fact that Gill led from the front with his batting like Kohli had back then should help. The 147-run knock in Headingley was the 25-year-old's sixth Test hundred, second abroad and only the first outside the subcontinent.

It's not like he needed the runs for his aura to build and words to be heeded to but a performing captain commands respect. Also, India no longer has Kohli and Rohit Sharma, and Gill, now at the No. 4 slot, is the fulcrum.

"He [Gill] was phenomenal," said coach Gautam Gambhir after Leeds. "Importantly, the way he batted in the first innings... I am sure he would have had his nerves. But being the captain for the first time and then getting a 100..."

For Gill, the expectations will be for this confidence to spill over into his captaincy. He was satisfactory on debut, though there was a tinge of predictability to his bowling changes and a reactionary feel to his fielding placements. He will also have to plan for two contests sans lynchpin Jasprit Bumrah.

Stern test: Gill, right, will need plenty of support from his deputy Pant as there was a tinge of predictability to his bowling changes and a reactionary feel to his fielding placements. GETTY IMAGES

> He has everything that it takes to be a successful captain. But we have to give him time. These are still very early days and these are tough places to captain
>
> **GAMBHIR**

"He has everything that it takes to be a successful captain," Gambhir insisted. "But we have to give him time. These are still very early days and these are tough places to captain. It's like putting someone in the deep sea. I am sure he is going to come out as a proper professional."

Speedster Prasidh Krishna, who played under Gill at Gujarat Titans in the 2025 Indian Premier League, was effusive in his praise too.

"He did a pretty good job," the 29-year-old said. "All of us saw how he rotated the bowlers, ensured everybody had enough breaks and brought people in at the right times. He created a good atmosphere." More of the same in the second Test can potentially revive India.

Of Munir Ali and shaping cricketing careers

N. Sudarshan
BIRMINGHAM

Munir Ali breathes cricket. After helping shape the career of his nephew Kabir Ali, who represented England in one Test and 14 ODIs, and then making Moeen Ali the cricketer he was – World Cup winner and an all-format champion – his current pet project is creating internationals out of his four grandsons.

The latest source of pride is 17-year-old Isaac Mohammed who scored a 28-ball 42 against the visiting Indian U-19 team on Friday to leave his 70-year-old grandfather chuffed.

"He[Isaac] is similar to Moeen the way he plays. I remember he got out a few weeks ago and his father said 'you could have played the right shot.' Isaac replied, 'if that ball had gone for a six you would have said well played'. So that is the attitude."

As rosy and happy as it all seems now, things were tough for Munir in his early days. Born to a Pakistani-origin father and British mother, Munir worked as a male nurse and did odd jobs even as he completed his coaching badges to nurture the next generation's cricketing aspirations. The race barrier was an added hurdle.

"I remember Bishan Singh Bedi, a family friend of ours, saying to Kabir, 'you need to be 20 times better than the white guys'. He also said 'when you're playing in the team, you have to believe that you're the number one. Think like that and everything comes automatically.'"

Moeen followed this advice diligently, going on to represent England in 68 Tests, 138 ODIs and 92 T20Is.

But Munir felt his son could have finished with better numbers.

"I always ask the questions: why did Moeen bat so low (No. 8, 9)? Why couldn't anybody else bat at No. 8? Why the sacrifice? To accommodate others. But he's still very lucky. He scored 3000 Test runs [3094], 200 wickets [204]. He's one of the few who've done that."

Munir, who runs the Moeen Ali Cricket Academy here, said that while his son's success had indeed made it better for children with immigrant backgrounds, challenges remained.

The racism scandal at Yorkshire involving player Azeem Rafiq is still fresh in memory. Birmingham, in fact, has 31% population with Asian ethnicity.

"To be honest, apart from Worcestershire, there were a lot of other counties with similar things. Yorkshire was very obvious, yes. My home county is Warwickshire and I love it. That's where I do my cricket development. But even Moeen had to leave once, and he developed his game at Worcestershire.

"So it's been a difficult journey. But it's getting better. Chief Executive [of Warwickshire] Stuart Cain is very good with me and very helpful. I am hoping only the best things happen".

Not so rosy: Munir says that while Moeen's success has made it better for children with immigrant backgrounds, challenges remain. N. SUDARSHAN

Djokovic guns for 25, Alcaraz a rare double

WIMBLEDON

Associated Press
LONDON

It's become part of Novak Djokovic's routine now, particularly at Grand Slam tournaments: He shows up and gets asked – at the start of the event, during the event, after the event or sometimes all three – whether this will be his final appearance there.

"Whether it could be my last dance," the 24-time Major champion began, repeating the phrase used by the reporter who posed the question, "I'm not sure – as I'm not sure about Roland-Garros or any other Slam that I play next."

What Djokovic did concede is that the All England Club might offer the likeliest spot for him to gather one more Grand Slam singles title, which would allow him to raise his career haul to 25 – a number that no tennis player ever has reached.

"I would probably agree that Wimbledon could be the best chance, because of the results I had, because of how I feel, how I play in Wimbledon," said seven-time champion and sixth seed Djokovic, who faces Alexandre Muller in the first round. "Just getting that extra push mentally and motivation to perform the best tennis at the highest level."

Ready to rumble: Djokovic says he is trying to go the extra mile to continue playing at the highest level. REUTERS

"I like the way I feel right now, physically. Tennis-wise, I've been playing well in the practice sessions. Obviously completely different when you start a tournament. I'll try to have a very good tournament and go as far as I can." And maybe even return in 2026.

When it comes to the idea of joining an elite group by completing a three-peat in two weeks' time, Carlos Alcaraz insisted that it isn't the sort of thing he really cares about. He wants the title, yes. But where it would place him in history? Leave that to others.

"I really want to lift the trophy," second seed Alcaraz said. "But right now, I'm not thinking about who I could join if I win three Wimbledons in a row."

That's something only four men have achieved in the Open era, which began in 1968: Bjorn Borg, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer and Djokovic. Not bad company.

Alcaraz will be aiming to win the French Open-Wimbledon double for a second consecutive time and become the first since Borg (in 1978, 79, 80) to do so.

Meanwhile, a day after dancing together on Centre Court in a TikTok video, top seed Aryna Sabalenka and second seed Coco Gauff faced more questions about the aftermath of Sabalenka's comments right after the French Open final.

"I'm not the person that will fuel hate in the world," said Gauff, who opens her Wimbledon campaign against Dayana Yastremska on Tuesday. "I think people were taking it too far. It was just really targeting and saying a lot of things that I felt were not nice. I didn't want to fuel that more."

Sabalenka, who faces Carson Branstine on No. 1 Court on Monday, said she hopes the video shows that all is well between the two.

Monday's Picks

MEN

2-Alcaraz vs Fognini
3-Zverev vs Rinderknech
5-Fritz vs Perricard
8-Rune vs Jarry
9-Medvedev vs Bonzi

WOMEN

1-Sabalenka vs Branstine
4-Paolini vs Sevastova
5-Zheng vs Siniakova
6-Keys vs Ruse
9-Badosa vs Boulter

Messi's Inter Miami bears the brunt of ruthless PSG

CLUB WORLD CUP

Agencies
ATLANTA

Paris Saint-Germain easily eliminated Inter Miami and old friend Lionel Messi from the FIFA Club World Cup, outclassing the Herons 4-0 in the round-of-16 match on Sunday.

Joao Neves scored two goals before a Miami own goal and a strike by Achraf Hakimi bloated the margin to four by half-time.

The match was Messi's first time facing PSG since leaving the club and coming to America two years ago. Desire Doue won PSG a free-kick just outside the penalty area less than five minutes into the match. Vitinha took the kick and connected with Neves, who headed it on the run across Ustari's body and into the net.

PSG continued to control play until Neves doubled the advantage in the 39th minute. Fabian Ruiz dispossessed Sergio Busquets, and a quick passing sequence freed up Neves for an open shot from the centre of the box.

Tomas Aviles accidentally chested a PSG cross over his own goal line in the 44th minute. Moments later, PSG's Bradley Barcola made a perfect run to receive a pass deep in the box, and he passed it back to Hakimi. His first shot ricocheted off Ustari's head and the crossbar, but Hakimi scored his own rebound for a 4-0 advantage.

On Saturday, Chelsea defeated Benfica 4-1 in extra time in a chaotic weather-disrupted last-16 clash to book its place in the quarterfinals.

Christopher Nkunku, Pedro Neto and Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall scored in extra time to send the Premier League side into a last-eight match against Brazil's Palmeiras, which got the better of Botafogo. Chelsea's late burst of scoring settled a game that took four hours, 39 minutes to complete at Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium in North Carolina after a near two-hour weather delay.

Point of no return: Aviles' own goal tripled PSG's advantage. REUTERS

The results
(pre-quarterfinals): On Sunday: At Atlanta: PSG 4 (Neves 6, 39, Aviles 44-og, Hakimi 45+3) bt Inter Miami 0.

On Saturday: At Charlotte: Benfica 1 (Di Maria 90+5-pen) lost to Chelsea 4 (James 64, Nkunku 108, Neto 114, Dewsbury-Hall 117) aet.

Zimbabwe in trouble despite Williams' ton

Agence France-Presse
BULAWAYO

Sean Williams hit an aggressive century for Zimbabwe, but South Africa was in control after the second day of the first Test at Queens Sports Club on Sunday.

The left-handed Williams hit 137 off 163 balls – more than half his team's total of 251. South Africa stretched its lead to 216 runs when it reached 49 for one at the close of play. The visitor had declared its first innings at the overnight score of 418 for nine.

The host suffered a major blow when opening batter Brian Bennett was forced to retire hurt for 19 after being struck on the helmet when he missed a hook against fast bowler Kwena Maphaka.

Bennett was ruled out of the rest of the match with a mild concussion. He was replaced by Prince Masvaure, who was dismissed for seven.

The scores: South Africa 418/9 decl. & 49/1 in 13 overs vs Zimbabwe 251 in 67.4 overs (Williams 137, Yusuf 3/42, Mulder 4/50, Maharaj 3/70).

INBRIEF

Manisha brace helps Indian women blank Timor-Leste

The Indian senior women's team continued its impressive run in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers with a 4-0 win over Timor-Leste in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on Sunday. Winger Manisha Kalyan (12, 80) scored a brilliant brace, while Anju Tamang (58) and Lynda Kom Serto (86) added their names to the scoresheet in a one-sided contest that saw India dominate from start to finish at the 700th Anniversary Stadium. India now has six points from two games.

Nikhat downs Kalpana, through to the semifinals

Home favourite Nikhat Zareen advanced to the 51kg semifinals with a 5-0 win over Kalpana on the second day of the Elite women's boxing tournament at the Saroornagar Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad on Sunday. In 65kg, former youth world champion Ankushita Boro also secured a clinical 5-0 victory Rajasthan's Parthvi to advance to the last-four stage. Preeti (54kg), Jyoti (51kg), and Devika Ghorpade (51kg) all came out of their quarterfinal bouts with straightforward wins. V. Lakshaya (51kg), Tanu (54kg), Shashi (65kg), and Yashi Sharma (65kg) were among others who also made the semifinals.

Tanvi and Ayush make it to US Open badminton final

Tanvi Sharma and Ayush Shetty moved into the finals of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament at Iowa in contrasting fashion. Tanvi defeated Ukraine's seventh-seeded Polina Buhrova 21-14, 21-16 in the women's singles semifinal in just 34 minutes and will take on top seed Beiwen Zhang of the USA in the final. Ayush overcame top seed and world No. 6 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese-Taipei 21-23, 21-15, 21-14 and will face another tough opponent in third seed Brian Yang of Canada.

Former England batter Larkins passes away at 71

Former England batter Wayne Larkins has passed away aged 71. Larkins played 13 Tests and 25 ODIs and was part of the team that reached the 1979 World Cup final. He made 716 appearances for Northamptonshire. Later, he relocated to Durham where he retired after a career that saw him score 40,000 runs and 85 tons.

Championship leader Marc wins Dutch MotoGP

Marc Marquez extended his lead in the world championship standings, winning the Dutch MotoGP at Assen on Sunday in a race where his closest pursuer and younger brother Alex Marquez suffered a left hand fracture. Marc came home on his Ducati ahead of Marco Bezzecchi (Aprilia) with the winner's teammate Francesco Bagnaia third. Marc's victory brought him level with legend Giacomo Agostini on 68 elite wins.

Bhandari elected president of Karnataka Golf Association

Adith Kumar Bhandari was elected unopposed as the president of the Karnataka Golf Association managing committee for the year 2025-26. C.P. Nanjappa was elected the captain, while Madhur Sood and R. Hari Achanta were elected secretary and treasurer respectively. The six committee members elected are Devaiah Thennira, Ashok Gowda, Sanjay Mathias, Nishant Gurjer, Uday Jamnadas and J.M. Swamy.

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs South Africa: 1st Test, day 3, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

Wimbledon: Star Sports 1, SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

Football: Club World Cup, DAZN, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Norris holds off Piastri for maiden win in Austria and season's third

The McLaren driver cuts his teammate's championship lead from 22 to 15 points; World champion Verstappen crashes out early after a collision with Antonelli; start gets delayed after Sainz's car catches fire in the pit lane

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
SPIELBERG

Lando Norris resisted vigorous attacks from teammate and championship leader Oscar Piastri to claim a masterful McLaren 1-2 in Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix.

In torrid heat at the Red Bull Ring, the 25-year-old Briton came home 2.695 seconds clear of the 24-year-old Australian to trim his lead in the title race by 15 points.

It was Norris's first win in Austria, his third win this year, and the seventh of his career.

It was McLaren's first success in Austria since David Coulthard triumphed in 2001.

The McLaren pair battled throughout the race to provide thrilling racing for the packed crowd and put behind them their collision in Canada two weeks earlier.

Leclerc third

Charles Leclerc was third ahead of his Ferrari teammate and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, their best result of the year, with George Russell finishing fifth for Mercedes.

"It was a tough race," said Norris. "Pushing the whole way through... tricky, hot, tiring, but the perfect result for us as a team, a 1-2 again. We had a great battle, that's for sure."

For Piastri, it was equally demanding. "Intense!" he said. "I hope it was good watching because from inside the car it was hard work. Yeah, I tried my absolute best."

Liam Lawson came in a career-best sixth for RB on a desultory day for the senior Red Bull team after four-time champion Max Verstappen retired on the opening lap after being hit by Mercedes' teenage rookie Kimi Antonelli.

"I got hit," said the Dutchman on team radio. The Italian apologised. "I locked the rear. Sorry about that," he told Mercedes.

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso was seventh ahead of Gabriel Bortoleto and his Sauber team-mate Nico Hulkenberg, the future Audi outfit showing its huge potential, with Esteban Ocon finishing 10th for Haas.

After a frantic prelude, during which Carlos Sainz's Williams failed to leave the grid and then caught fire in the pit lane, the race was delayed for 10 minutes

Contract extended

It has been decided that the Austrian GP at the Red Bull Ring will stay on the calendar through 2041, an extension which equals Miami as the longest in Formula One.

The results: 1. Lando Norris (McLaren) 1:23:47.693s, 2. Oscar Piastri (McLaren) +2.695, 3. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) +19.820, 4. Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari) +29.020, 5. George Russell (Mercedes) +1:02.396, 7. Liam Lawson (Racing Bulls) +1:07.754.
1 Lap: Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin), Gabriel Bortoleto (Kick Sauber), Nico Hulkenberg (Kick Sauber), Esteban Ocon (Haas), Oliver Bearman (Haas), Hadjar Isack Hadjar (Racing Bulls), Pierre Gasly (Alpine), Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), Franco (Colapinto).
2 Laps: Yuki Tsunoda (Red Bull).
DNF: Alexander Albon (Williams), Max Verstappen (Red Bull), Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes), Carlos Sainz Jr. (Williams).
The standings (top five):
Drivers: 1. Piastri 216 points, 2. Norris 201, 3. Verstappen 155, 4. Russell 146, 5. Leclerc 119.
Constructors: 1 McLaren 417, 2. Ferrari 210, 3. Mercedes 209, 4. Red Bull 162, 5. Williams 55.

Lights to flag — THE JOURNEY IN NUMBERS AFTER THE 70-LAP AUSTRIAN GP ON SUNDAY

- **1** Sauber's first double-points race since the 2023 Qatar GP
- **6** Lawson registered his career-best finish
- **7** McLaren's wins, the most at Red Bull Ring
- **14** Hamilton's race starts in Austria, moving past Raikkonen, Perez and Bottas
- **31** Alonso overtook Perez for the most seventh-place finishes in F1 history
- **34** Hamilton equalled Vettel for most fourth-place finishes
- **50** Alonso (43y 11m) became the oldest to start a race in 50 years (Graham Hill - 43y 11m 11d, 1975 Brazilian GP)
- **77** Red Bull's scoring streak in Grands Prix came to an end
- **100** The number of times McLaren took pole position and won too
- **2772** Bortoleto ended an almost eight-year wait for a Brazilian driver to finish in the points

Marching on: The McLarens continued to rule the roost, finishing 1-2 in Spielberg.

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Ronaldo. AFP

Ronaldo prioritising record sixth World Cup over CWC

Associated Press
LISBON

Resting up to play in a record sixth World Cup was more important to Cristiano Ronaldo than switching teams to play in the Club World Cup.

"I had some offers to play (Club) World Cup but I think it didn't make sense because I prefer to have a good rest, a good preparation, because this season will be very long, because this is the season of the World Cup, at the end of the season," said Ronaldo in an Instagram video posted by his Saudi Arabian club, Al Nassr, after signing a two-year extension.

Be ready

"So I want to be ready not only for Al Nassr but also for the national team."

He and long-time Argentina rival Lionel Messi could be the first players to appear in six World Cups at next year's tournament co-hosted by the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

July 31 is the deadline for mandatory registration of coaches

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has set July 31 deadline for mandatory registration of all the coaches – qualified and unqualified – in the country in its bid to tackle spiralling doping cases, making it clear that non compliance of the directive will lead to their blacklisting.

In its latest circular, following its decision in the January Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) to crack the whip on coaches suspected to be involved in doping of their wards, the AFI said that unregistered coaches, regardless of their qualifications, will not be permitted to impart training to athletes.

"AFI has decided to register all coaches, qualified or unqualified who are engaged in training athletes across various venues throughout the country," the national federation said in a circular on Saturday.

"Registration with AFI is mandatory for all coaches, regardless of their qualifications as unregistered coaches will not be permitted to impart training to athletes and will not be engaged in any activity of the AFI under any circumstances." Upon successful registration, each coach will be allotted a unique registration number by the AFI and an ID card will be issued.

"The relevant details will be communicated to the registered coaches through their respective email addresses."

Fritz's love-affair with Eastbourne continues

Superb record: Fritz has never lost a final at Eastbourne. AP

Reuters
EASTBOURNE

Three-time champion Taylor Fritz came out on top in an all-American decider, beating lucky loser Jenson Brooksby 7-5, 6-1 in the Eastbourne Open final on Saturday to retain his title.

Fritz has never lost a final at Eastbourne, also beating fellow Americans when winning in 2019 and 2022 and, having been taken to three sets in his three previous matches at this year's edition, the final was a more straightforward affair.

"There's something about Eastbourne," said Fritz.

The results: Finals: Men: Taylor Fritz bt Jenson Brooksby 7-5, 6-1.

Women: Maya Joint bt Alexandra Eala 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(10).

Time And Tide waits for no one

RACING

BENGALURU: Adhiraj S. Jodha trained Time And Tide (Sandesh up), won the Chief Minister's Cup (1,200m), the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 29).
The winner is owned by Bachhawat Farms Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Vikram Bachhawat.
THE RESULTS:
1. MAHALAKSHMI PLATE (1,600M): SUNLIT PATH (Sandesh) 1, Anchorage (Ritesh Gochhi) 2, Embosom (Jagadeesh) 3 and Sea Diamond (Vinod Shinde) 4. Not run: Count Basie. 7, 1 and Lnk. 1m, 41.13s. ₹23 (w), 10, 17 and 25 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 42, FP: 139, Q: 59, Trinella: 432/165, Exacta: 3,336/1,588. Favourite: Sunlit Path,
Owner: Mr. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy Komma. Trainer: K. Purshotham.
2. LITTLEOVER PLATE (1,200M): VICTORIA CROSS (Neeraj) 1, Konkrah (Sandesh) 2, Blue Storm (Arvind K) 3 and Catch The Worm (Shreyas S) 4. Not run: Efficacy and Knotty Cruise. 1/2, 3-1/2 and 2. 1m, 14.52s. ₹43 (w), 15, 11 and 19 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 42, FP: 93, Q: 42, Trinella: 512/385, Exacta: 876/241. Favourite: Konkrah.
Owner: Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Neil Darashah.
3. ASTRONOMIC PLATE (2,000M): MINDFUL (Yash) 1, Odysseus (Neeraj) 2, Moon Star (Akshay K) 3 and Miss Smiley Angel (Sai Kiran) 4. Not run: Gordon. 1-3/4, 3/4 and 6-3/4. 2m, 08.02s. ₹58 (w), 13, 10 and 13 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 37, FP: 109, Q: 45, Trinella: 239/145, Exacta: 1,590/886. Favourite: Odysseus.
Owners: Mr. Deepesh M. Narredu, Mr. Harshad Anil Kale, Stride Livestock Pvt Ltd, M/S. ZamZam Enterprises & Mr. Anil Saraf. Trainer: Deepesh Narredu.
4. ADLER PLATE (1,200M): DIVINE STAR (Trevor) 1, Pantazi (Sandesh) 2, Power Of Beauty (Arul J.H) 3 and Sir Winston (Hindu S) 4. 1-3/4, 1 and 2-1/2. 1m, 12.38s. ₹20 (w), 11, 13 and 23 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 68, FP: 48, Q: 27, Trinella: 323/251, Exacta: 1,282/596. Favourite: Divine Star.
Owners: Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. Pranav Ashok Ranpise, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Rajiv S. Ghule, Mr. S.R. Sanas & Sshaawn Horses & Sports (P)Ltd. Trainer: Aman Altaf Hussain.
5. KARNATAKA SUB-AREA CUP (1,400M): TRAKILA (Trevor) 1, Regal Reality (Akshay K) 2, Victoria Doresaani (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Bashir (Antony) 4. 1-1/4, 3 and 1/2. 1m, 24.80s. ₹38 (w), 16, 12 and 23 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 46, FP: 97, Q: 49, Trinella: 333/158, Exacta: 681/207. Favourite: Regal Reality.
Owners: Mr. Solomon Benveniste, Mrs. Rina Mahindra, Mrs. Menaka Gupta, Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, M/S. Deciding Factor LLP, Mr. Hemang D. Doctor, Mr. Achuthan Siddharth & Mr. Viral Doctor. Trainer: Aashay Doctor.
6. CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP (1,200M): TIME AND TIDE (Sandesh) 1, Magileto (Trevor) 2, Crown Drive (Hindu S) 3 and Aldgate (Antony) 4. Not run: Knotty Charmer. 1-3/4, Lnk and 2-1/2. 1m, 11.57s. ₹15 (w), 11, 14 and 31 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 65, FP: 26, Q: 30, Trinella: 311/179, Exacta: 1,212/431. Favourite: Time And Tide.
Owner: Bachhawat Farms Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Vikram Bachhawat. Trainer: Adhiraj S. Jodha.
7. TUDOR JET PLATE (1,200M): BEZAWADA SULTAN (J. Chinoy) 1, Gandolfini (Laxman S) 2, Agera (Sai Kiran) 3 and Divo (Arjun) 4. 2, Shd and 1/2. 1m, 14.18s. ₹25 (w), 13, 32 and 23 (p), SHP: 91, THP: 55, FP: 465, Q: 249, Trinella: 1,945/619, Exacta: 19,135/8,200. Favourite: Bezawada Sultan.
Owner: Mr. Mohammad Abdul Raheem. Trainer: Joseph B. Awale.
8. DESERT GOD PLATE (1,600M): ASHWA KALI BHANI (Suraj) 1, Continues (R. Pradeep) 2, Dubai Safari (Trevor) 3 and Assimilate (C. Umesh) 4. Snk, 4-1/2 and Snk. 1m, 39.17s. ₹18 (w), 14, 13 and 18 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 57, FP: 68, Q: 55, Trinella: 213/68, Exacta: 473/205. Favourite: Ashwa Kali Bhani.
Owner: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.
Jackpot: ₹572 (1,077 tkts.); Runner up: 137 (1,923 tkts.); Treble (i): 551 (33 tkts.); (ii): 115 (171 tkts.).

SAI centre, Bengaluru — the go-to venue for athletes seeking world-class facilities at home

Uthra Ganesan
BENGALURU

From a modest training base with limited facilities to being responsible for implementing all Sports Authority of India (SAI) schemes across three states and holding National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) for hockey, athletics and volleyball, financial and professional impetus have made the Netaji Subhas Southern Centre (NSSC) the go-to venue for athletes seeking world-class facilities at home.

With a cumulative investment exceeding ₹140 crore, the NSSC has undergone a major transformation in the last decade.

Besides the three NCOEs for comprehensive training across age-groups, the centre also hosts national camps in table tennis, kabaddi and water polo and conducts academic programmes in 11 disciplines.

The 3000m steeplechase national record holder Avinash Sable said the venue had always helped him perform well at major competitions.

"I came here for the first time in 2017 and things have changed a lot. The recovery centre is new, there are two synthetic tracks, experts for physiotherapy, medicine, biomechanics. I have trained abroad also but no facility has so many things together at one place. I have always performed well after training here," he said.

The centre today has a state-of-the-art sports science centre with labs for biomechanics, sports medicine and sports psychology equipped with some of the latest testing and training machines from across the world.

Out in the field, the athletics stadium boasts of a smart track with sensors that can gather and analyse data of every stride, exclusive strength and conditioning area, recovery room and modern changing rooms for hockey with more facilities planned in the near future, including exclusive testing machines for para-athletes.

P.V. Sindhu, who came for isokinetic testing, was appreciative of the facilities.

"I have come here a couple of times and SAI has always been very helpful. My father also used to come here as a player and things have changed completely since then," said the badminton star.

The biggest change, however, has been in the diet department with the centre boasting of a state-of-the-art research kitchen headed by chef Jeyraj that works closely with nutritionists to create customised recipes and also provides athlete's meal cards to track their consumption.

(The writer was at the NSSC Bengaluru on invitation from the Sports Authority of India)

Top class: The biomechanics lab at the Netaji Subhas Southern Centre, Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT